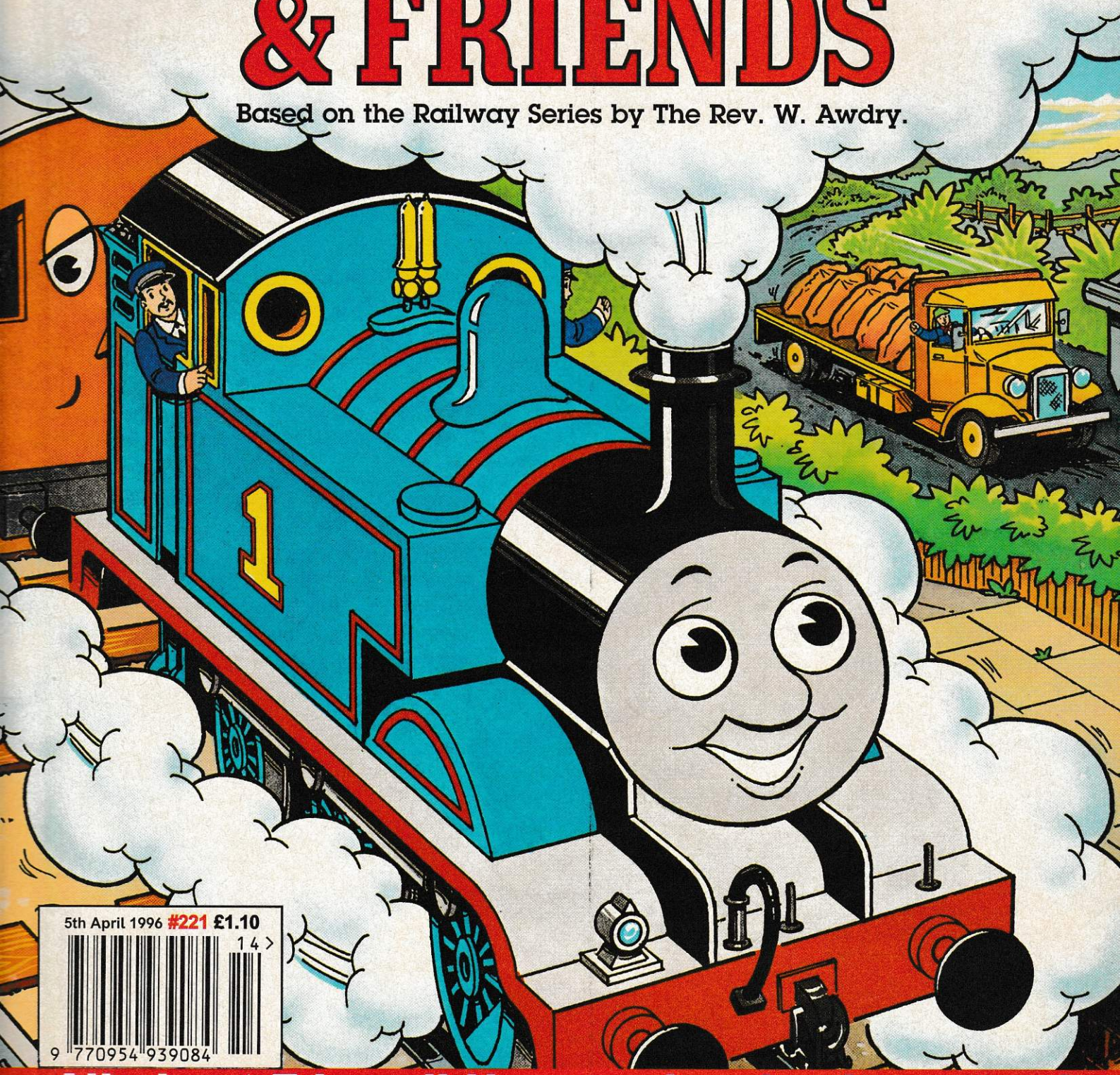
MARVEL COMICS

95 Chocolate eggs to be won!

NEW SIZE!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



5th April 1996 #221 £1.10
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All about Edward! New read and colour story!

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to .....

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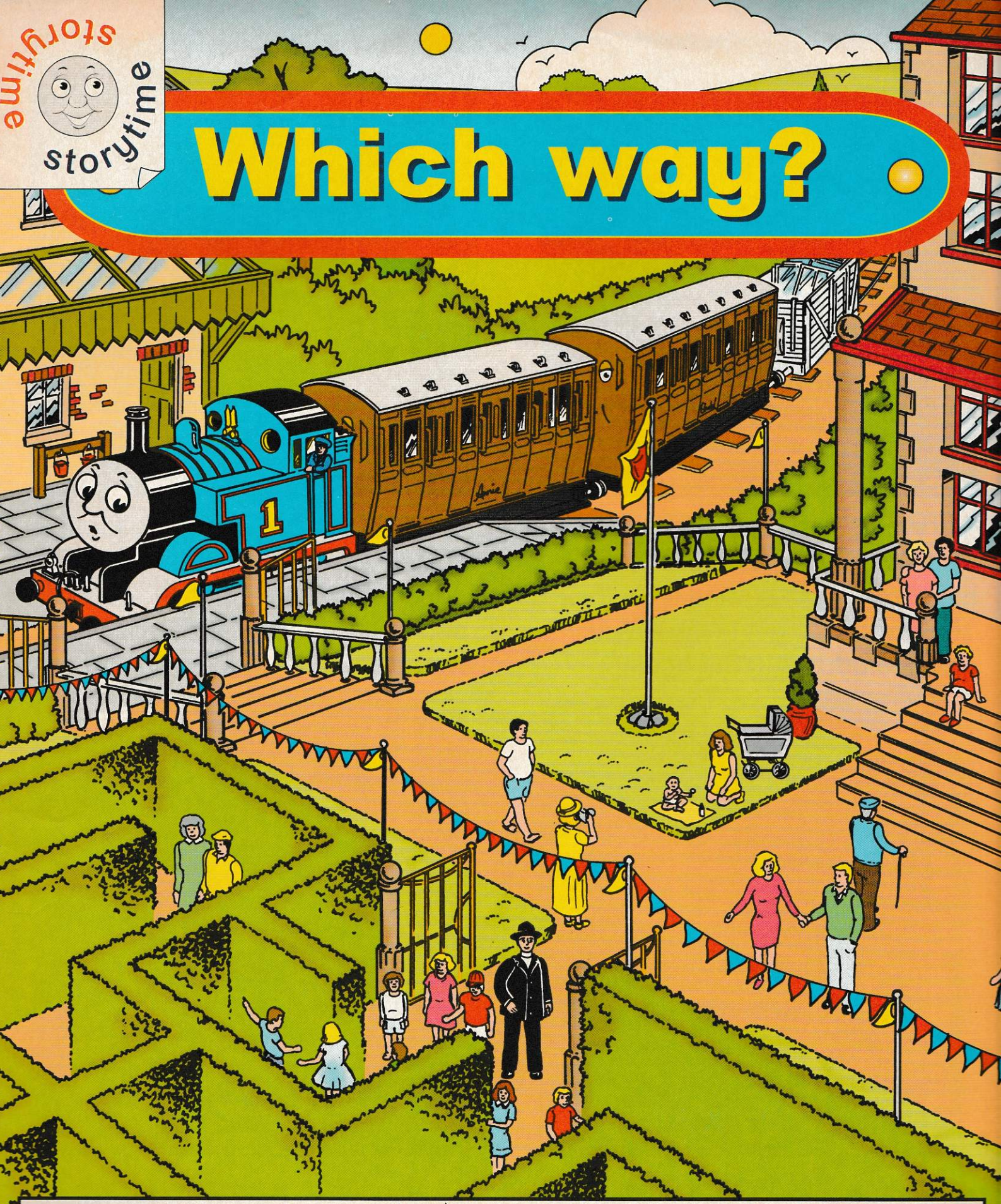
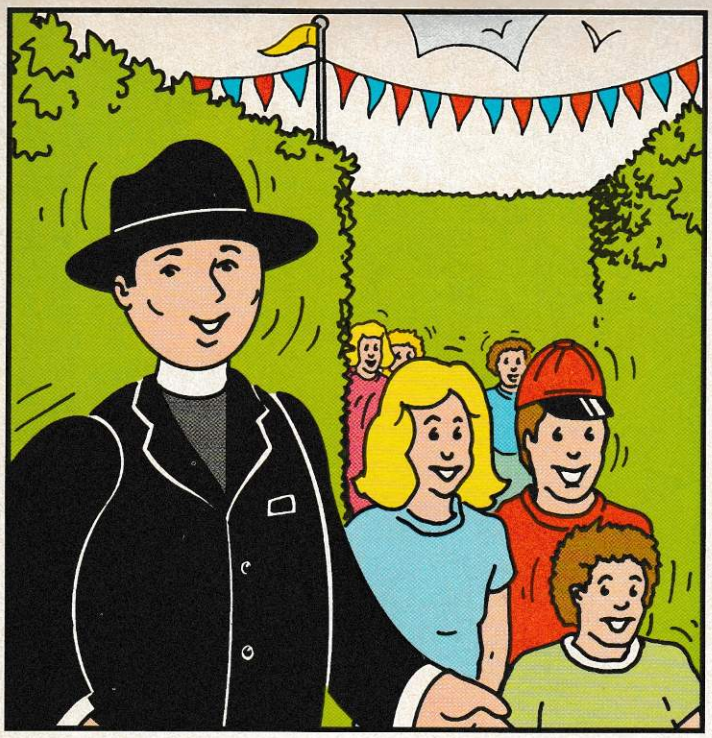
storytime

Which way?

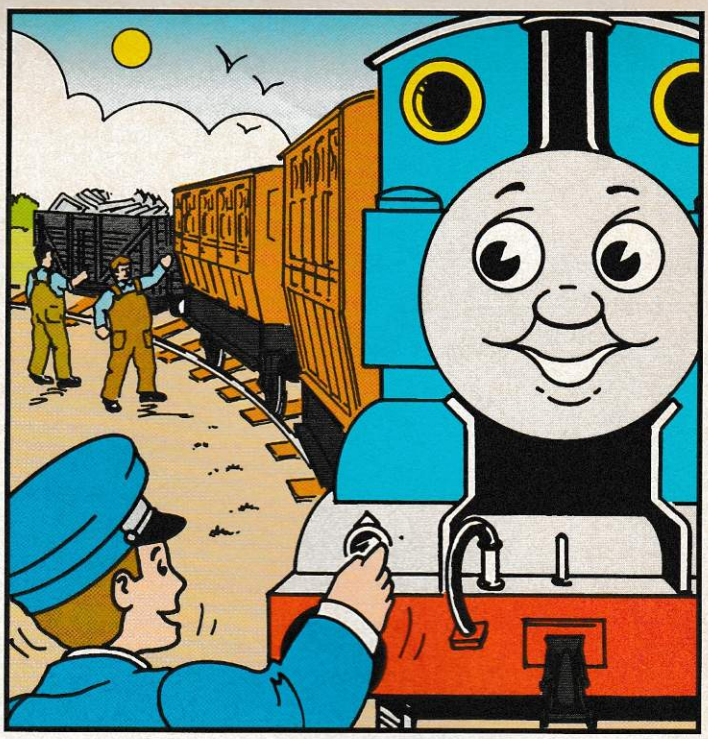


1. One morning, Thomas took the Vicar and some children to visit the gardens at a stately home. From the station, Thomas watched them enter a gate in a long hedge.

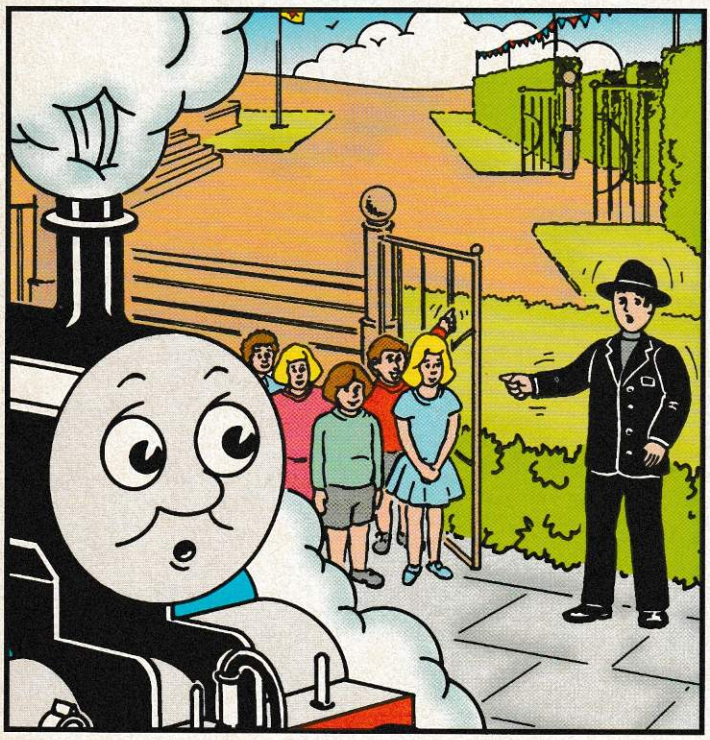
2. There were lots of hedges, forming a big pattern. The children disappeared behind them. "Where have they gone?" Thomas asked his driver. "Into a maze!" he said.



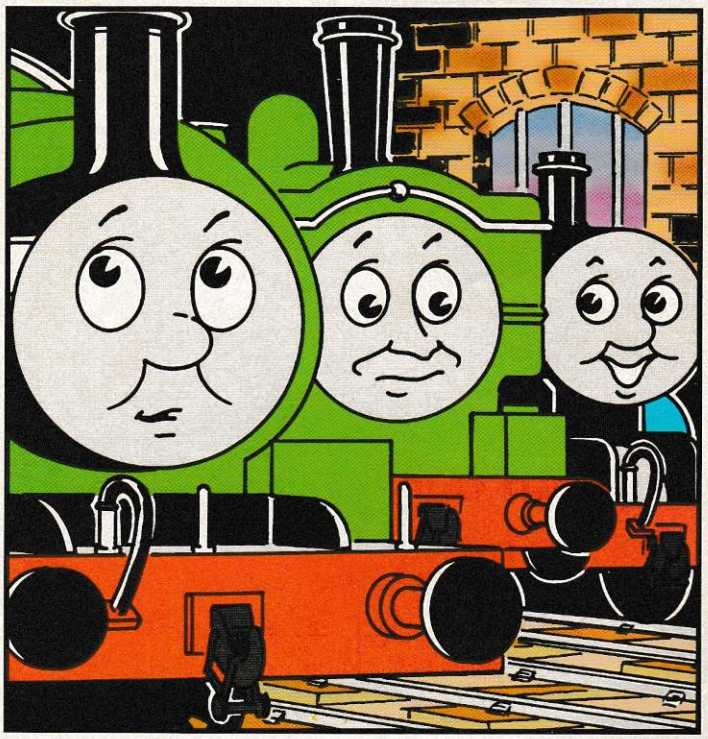
3. "What's that?" called Thomas. "A puzzle," his driver said. "The hedges line lots of winding paths. The game is to get to the middle and find your way out again!"



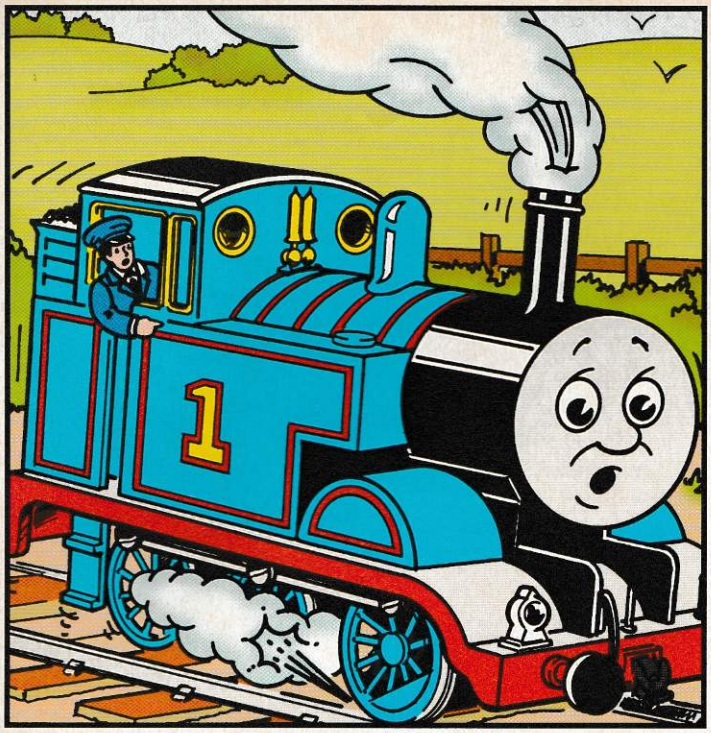
4. "That sounds like great fun!" smiled Thomas. He was pulling a goods truck, too. It was full of glass and bricks for a greenhouse that was being built in the gardens.



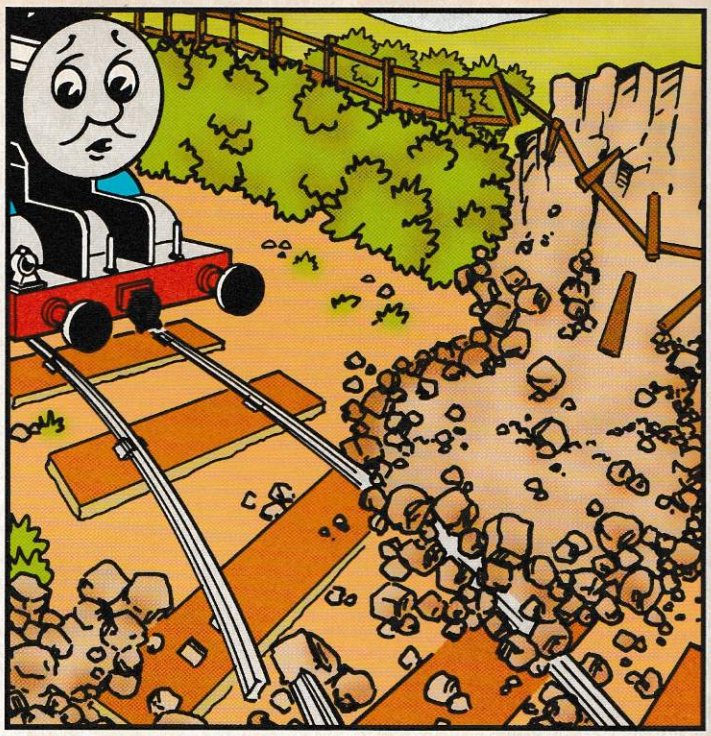
5. When the goods were unloaded, Thomas went back to collect the children. But two of them were missing. "They're still in the maze!" their friends told the Vicar.



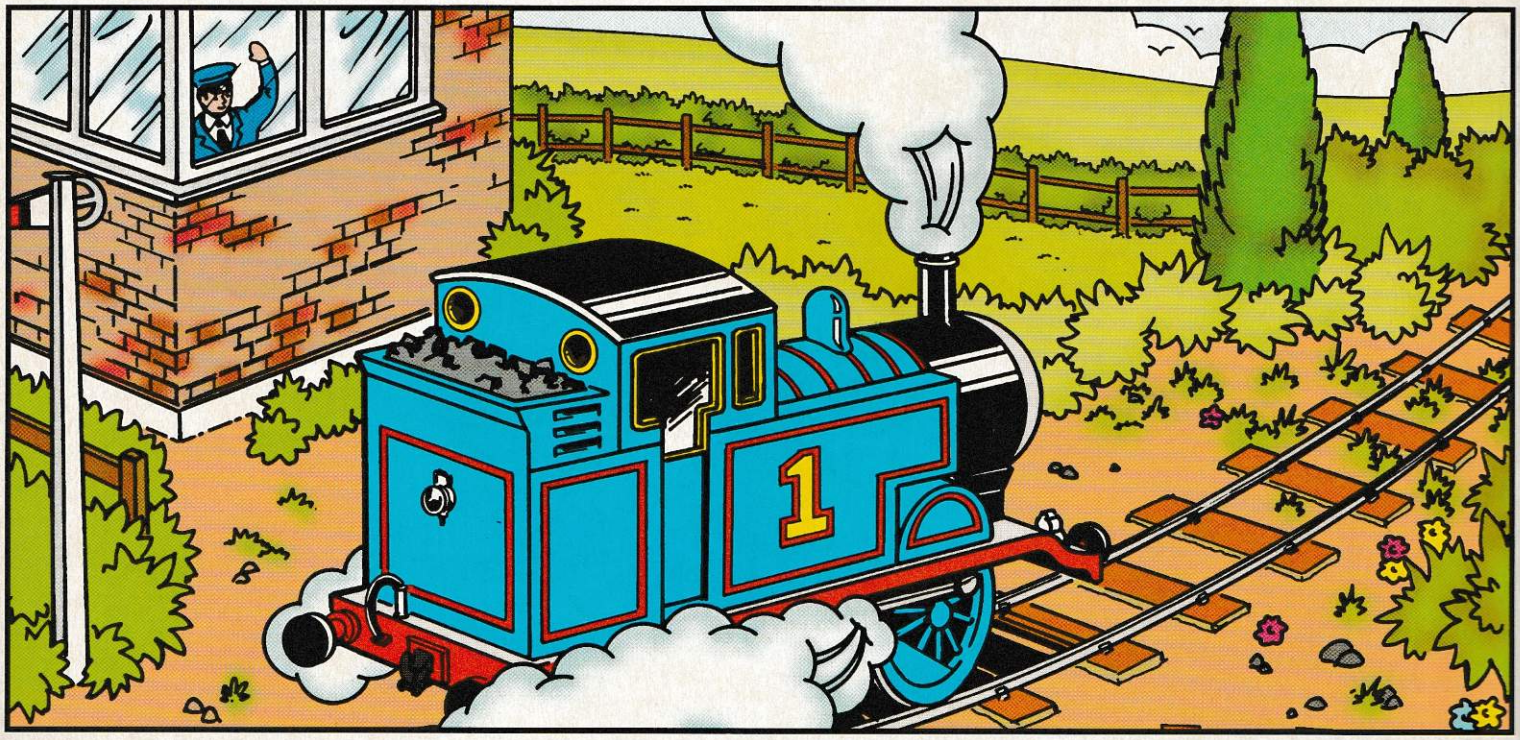
6. "Oh, dear! They must be lost," he said. The Vicar and Thomas's guard went to find them. That night, in the shed, Thomas told the other engines about the maze.



7. "I wouldn't get lost in a maze!" he said. Next day, Thomas went to the far side of the Island of Sodor to collect some trucks. On the way back, there was track trouble.



8. The railway bank, under a part of the line, had suddenly slipped. It was not safe for Thomas to go on until it was repaired. "I'll be stuck here for hours!" he groaned.



9. He backed up to a signalbox and the signalman rang for help. Then the signalman changed the points so Thomas could roll on to an old, disused track.

10. "It leads to more old lines," said Thomas's driver. "We'll try to find our way home along them." "Leave it to me!" called Thomas. "It's better than standing around!"

11. Very slowly, he puffed along the overgrown track. At a junction, Thomas's driver and fireman changed the points themselves with the points lever.

12. But there were so many lines, it was hard to guess which to take. Thomas could not see where he was going. Soon, he was totally lost.

13. In the end, Duck and Percy were sent to look for Thomas. Harold the Helicopter joined the search, too. He saw Thomas from the air and led him to the others.

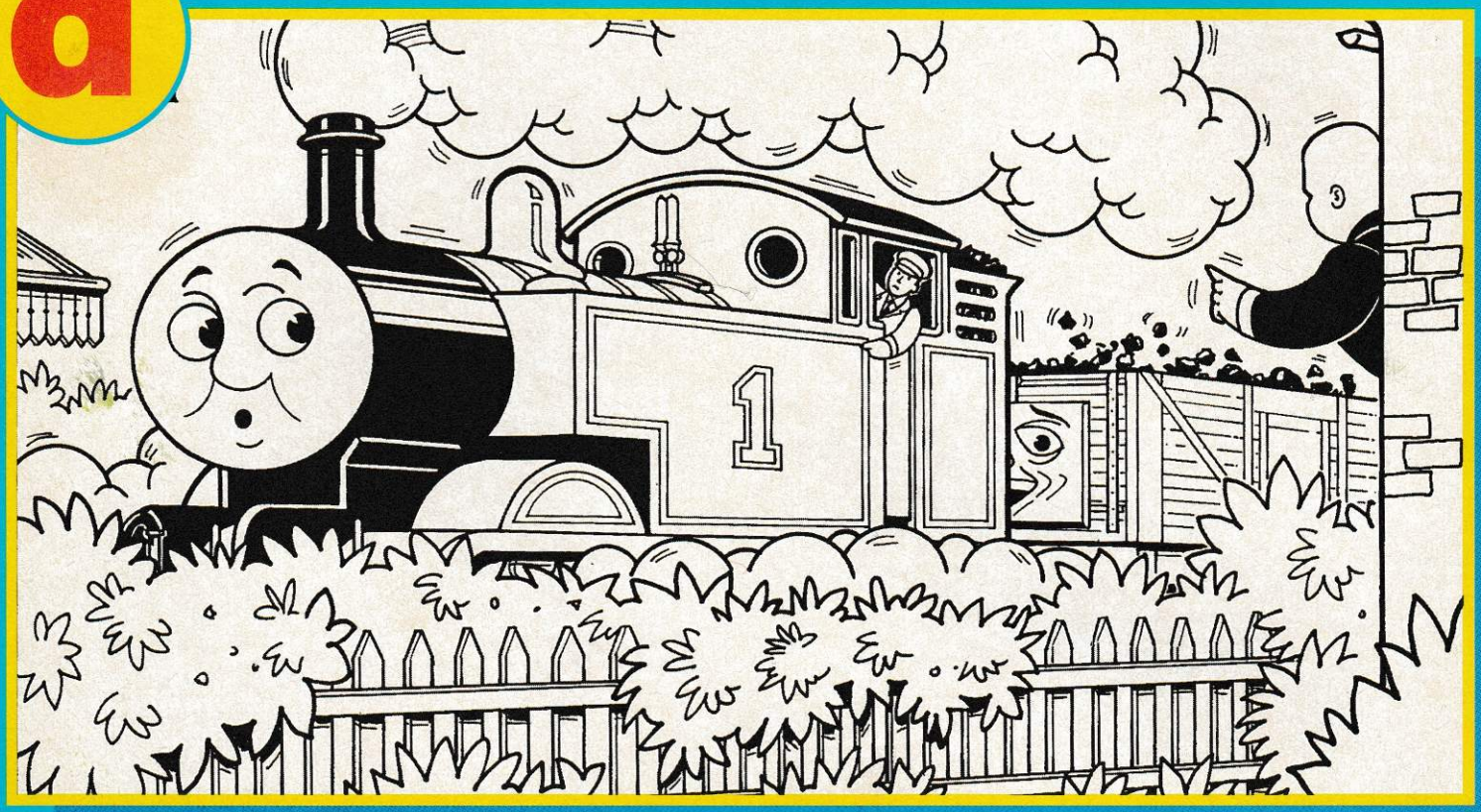
14. "We'll take you home," they smiled. "Those tracks were just like a maze," poor Thomas gasped.

"Then we're **amazed** you got lost!" Percy teased him.

Spot the difference!

These two pictures look the same, but there are some tiny differences between them! Can you spot the six changes? When you have found them all, colour in the pictures!

a



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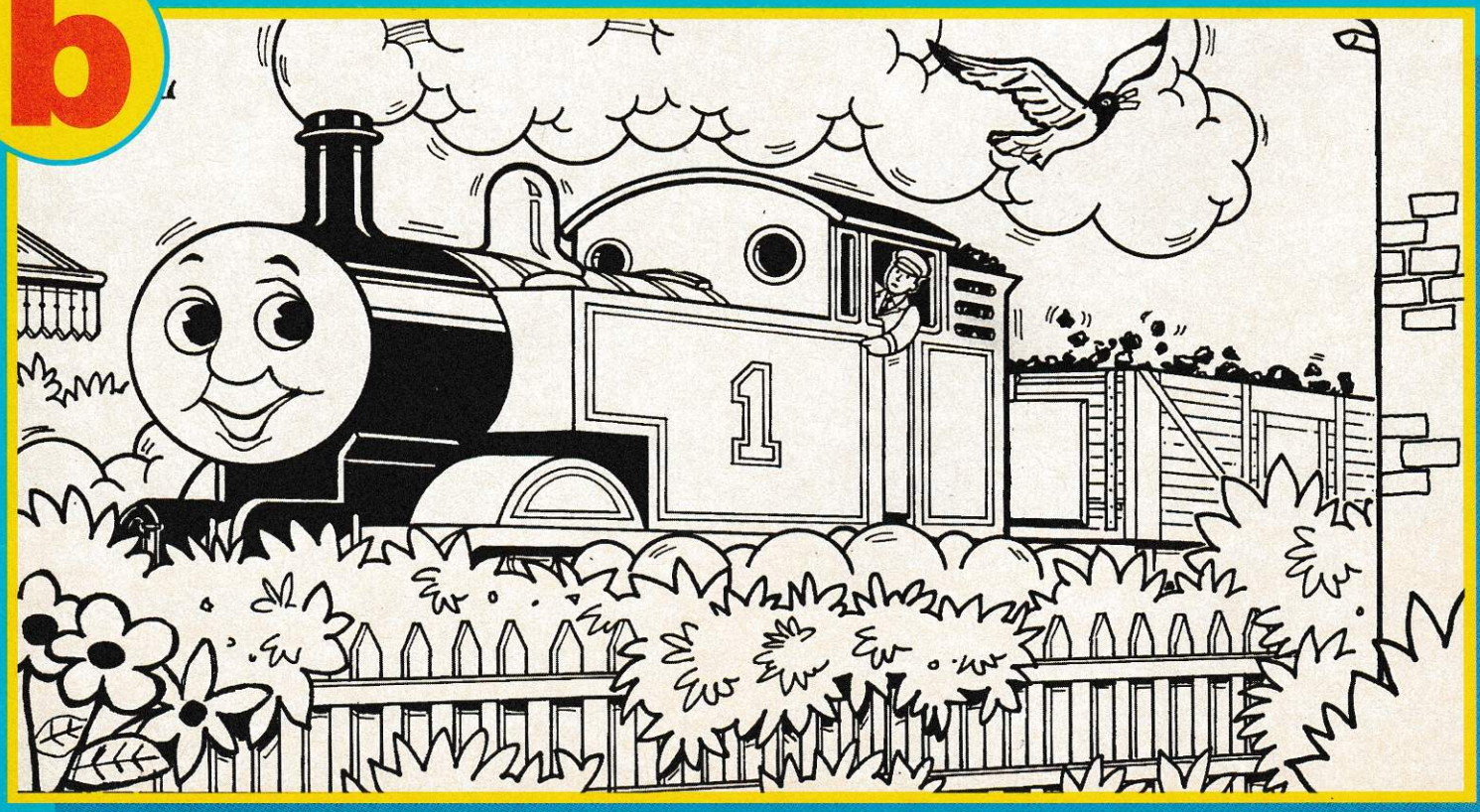
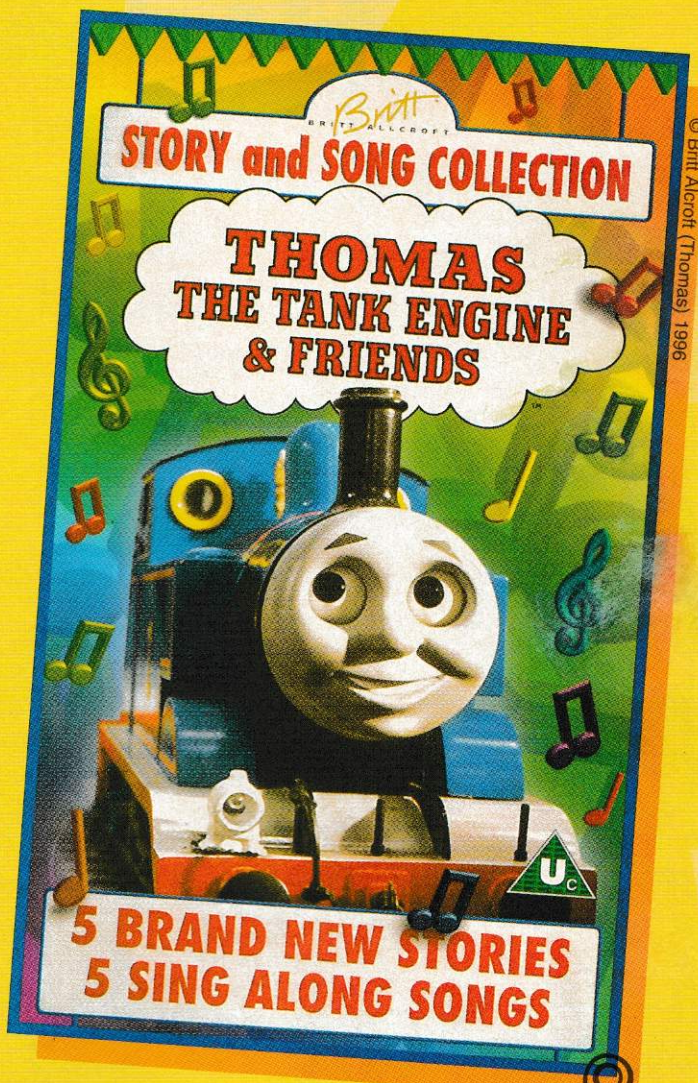
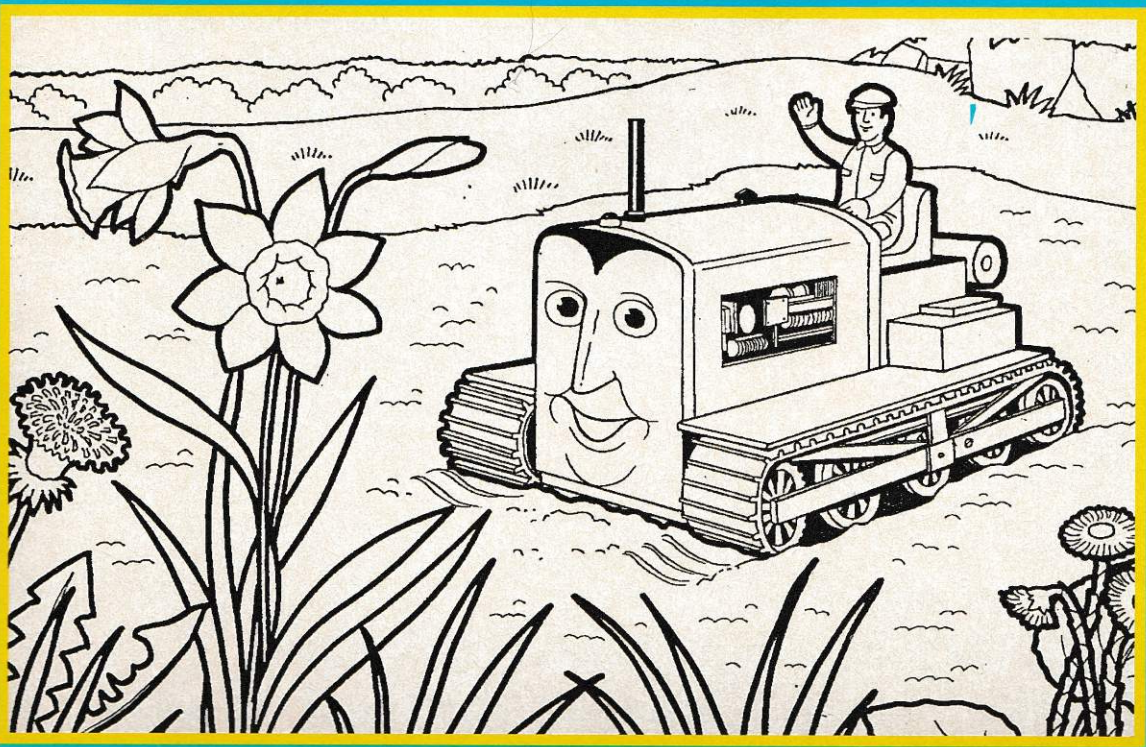


NEW! Thomas videos to be won!

Fans of Thomas the Tank Engine will be delighted to hear that a brand new video has just been released. The Story and Song Collection features five new stories, which have never been seen on TV! And now you can 'sing along' to Thomas too, because the video features five great songs as well!

We have 50 copies of the video to be won! For your chance to win, colour in the picture of Terence (below) as well as you can!





Send your entry with your name, age and address to: Thomas/New Video competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5TZ.

Entries to arrive by 8th April 1996. The 50 best entries will win a video!

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

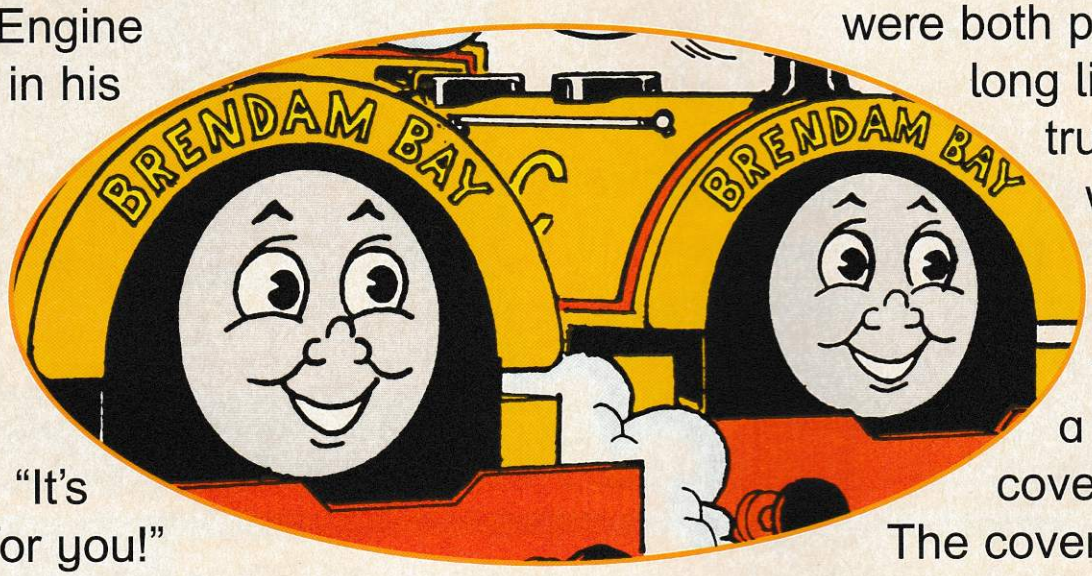
storytime

Undercover!

Strong winds and rain swept across the Island of Sodor. As Thomas puffed busily to and fro on his branch line, he was wet and uncomfortable.

He had to wait in heavy rain at a signal by the Vicarage Orchard. Thomas saw Trevor the Traction Engine standing in his shed.

"You're under-cover all day," called Thomas. "It's all right for you!"



"Oh, no, it's not," said Trevor. "The roof in my shed is leaking. But my driver, Jem Cole, says he can't mend it till the weather improves."

Trevor wearily explained that water was drip, drip, dripping on him, day and night, so he could not get a wink of sleep.

"At least you're nice and dry when you're in the engine shed, Thomas," sighed Trevor.

The signal changed and Thomas steamed on his way again, splashing through puddles across the line. The wind howled, tugging at Thomas's wheels. At a junction, he met Bill and Ben. "Hello, Thomas," they called out.

The Saddle-tank engine twins were both pulling a long line of trucks filled with china clay. Each truck had a large cover over it. The cover was waterproof, to stop the clay from getting wet in the rain.

Suddenly, a big gust shook the trucks. It pulled off one of their covers, which sailed into the air, straight towards Thomas!

The cover landed over Thomas's face. He could not see where he was going. Startled, Thomas pulled up urgently and his driver removed the cover.

"That might have caused an accident," said Ben. "Sorry!"

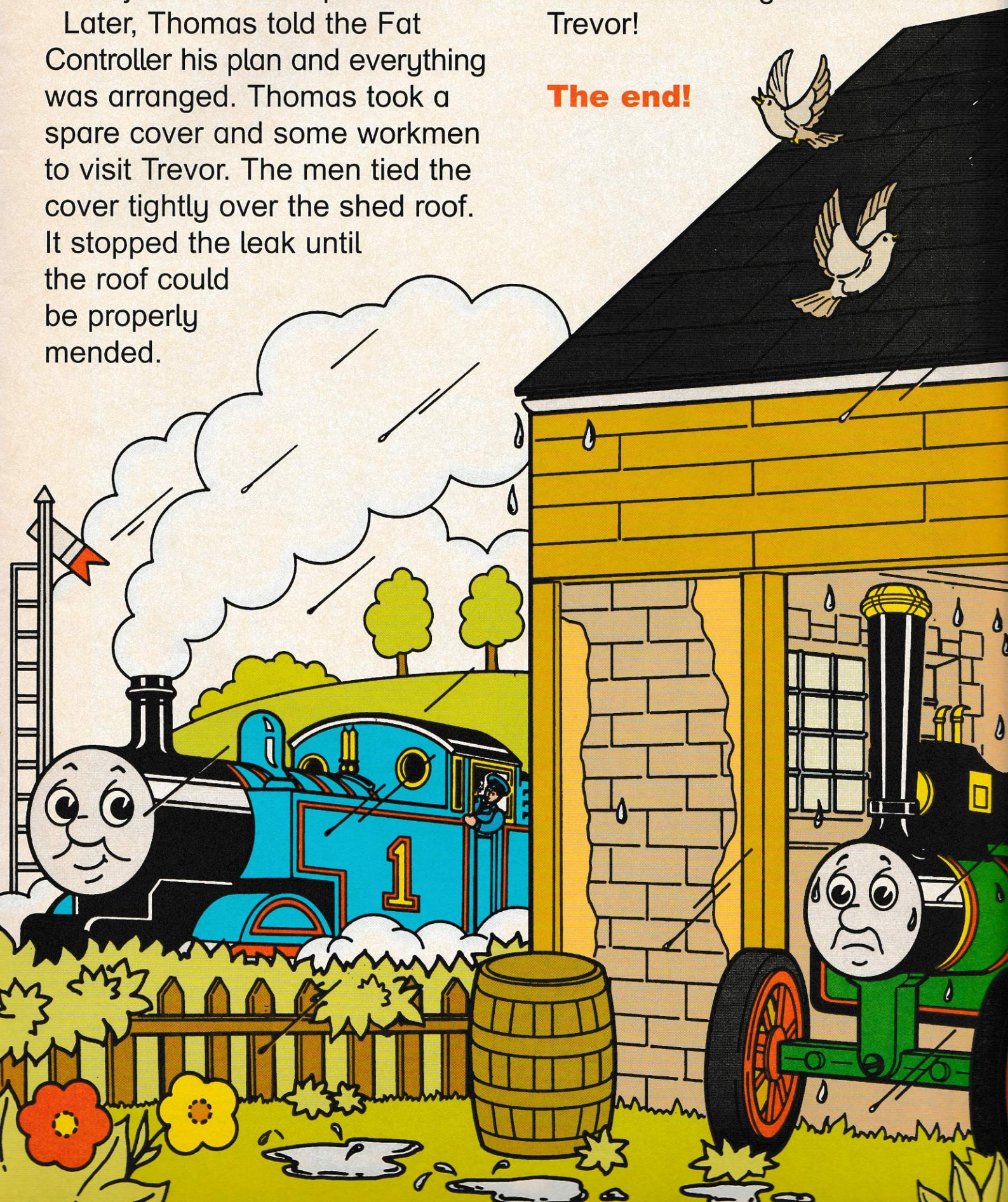
"Don't be," replied Thomas. "It's given me a good idea! Now I know just how to help Trevor!"

Later, Thomas told the Fat Controller his plan and everything was arranged. Thomas took a spare cover and some workmen to visit Trevor. The men tied the cover tightly over the shed roof. It stopped the leak until the roof could be properly mended.

"It's very dry having a truck cover over me!" smiled Trevor.

"I don't want one on top of me again," thought Thomas. But he didn't say so to Trevor!

The end!



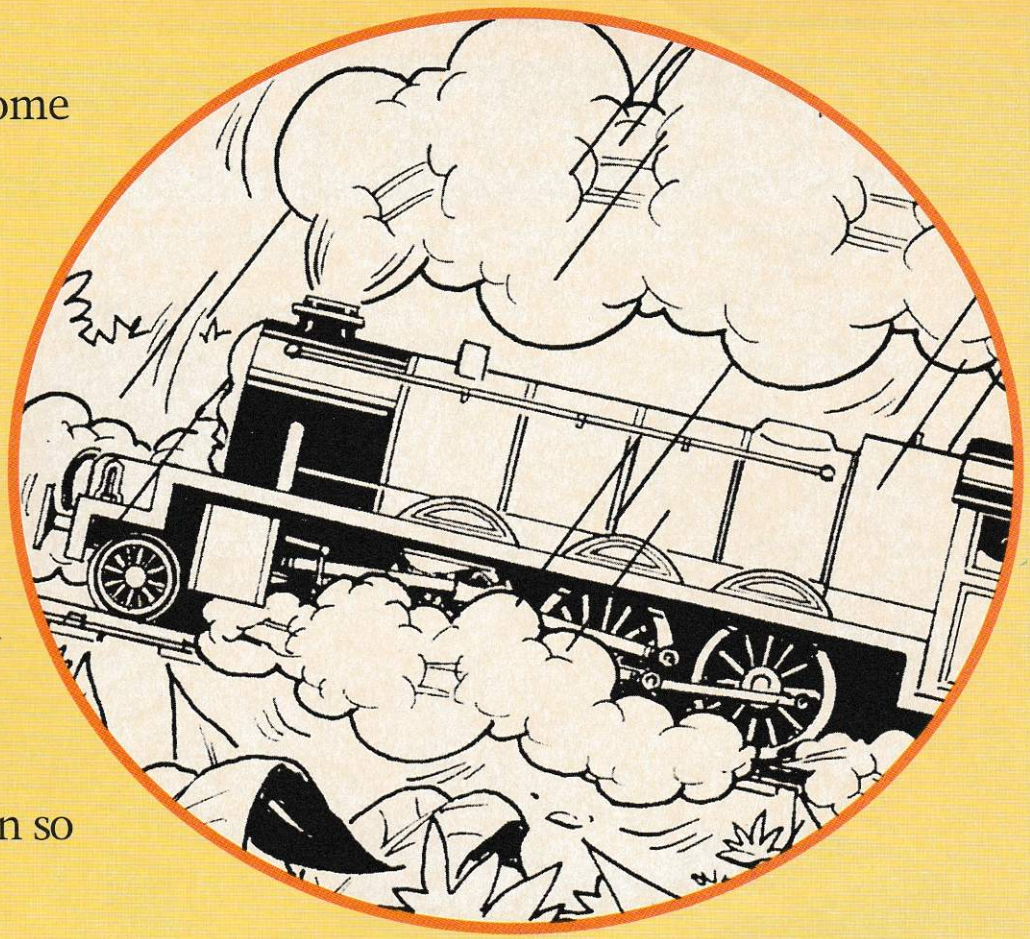
A read & colour story

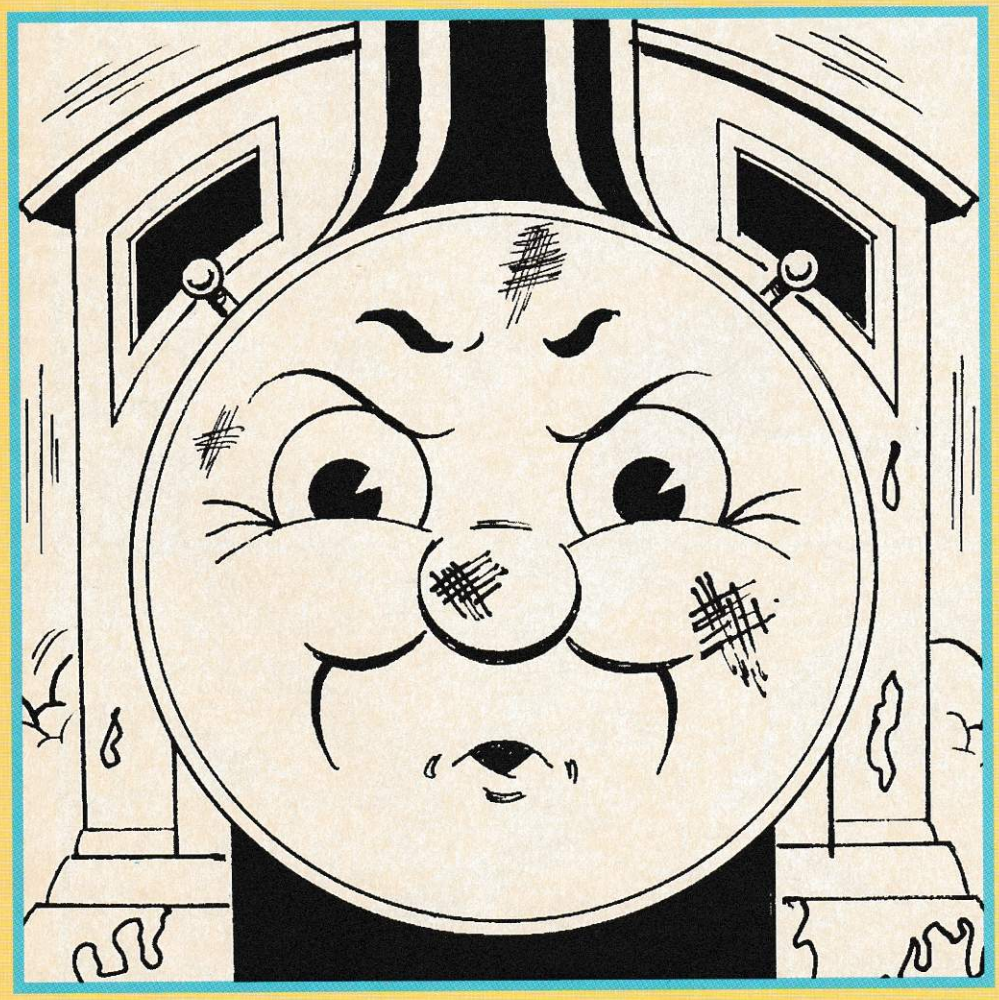
Edward's tunnel!

1 Edward is a sensible engine, but once he had a silly fear. A tunnel on one of the lines was damp, quiet and dark. Edward hated going through it. "Just like a bat cave!" he thought, shuddering. One day, the worst happened. Some bricks had fallen from the tunnel roof on to the track. Edward was stuck in the dark tunnel while he waited for help to come and clear the line. At first he was very scared, but his driver talked to him kindly, and he soon calmed down.

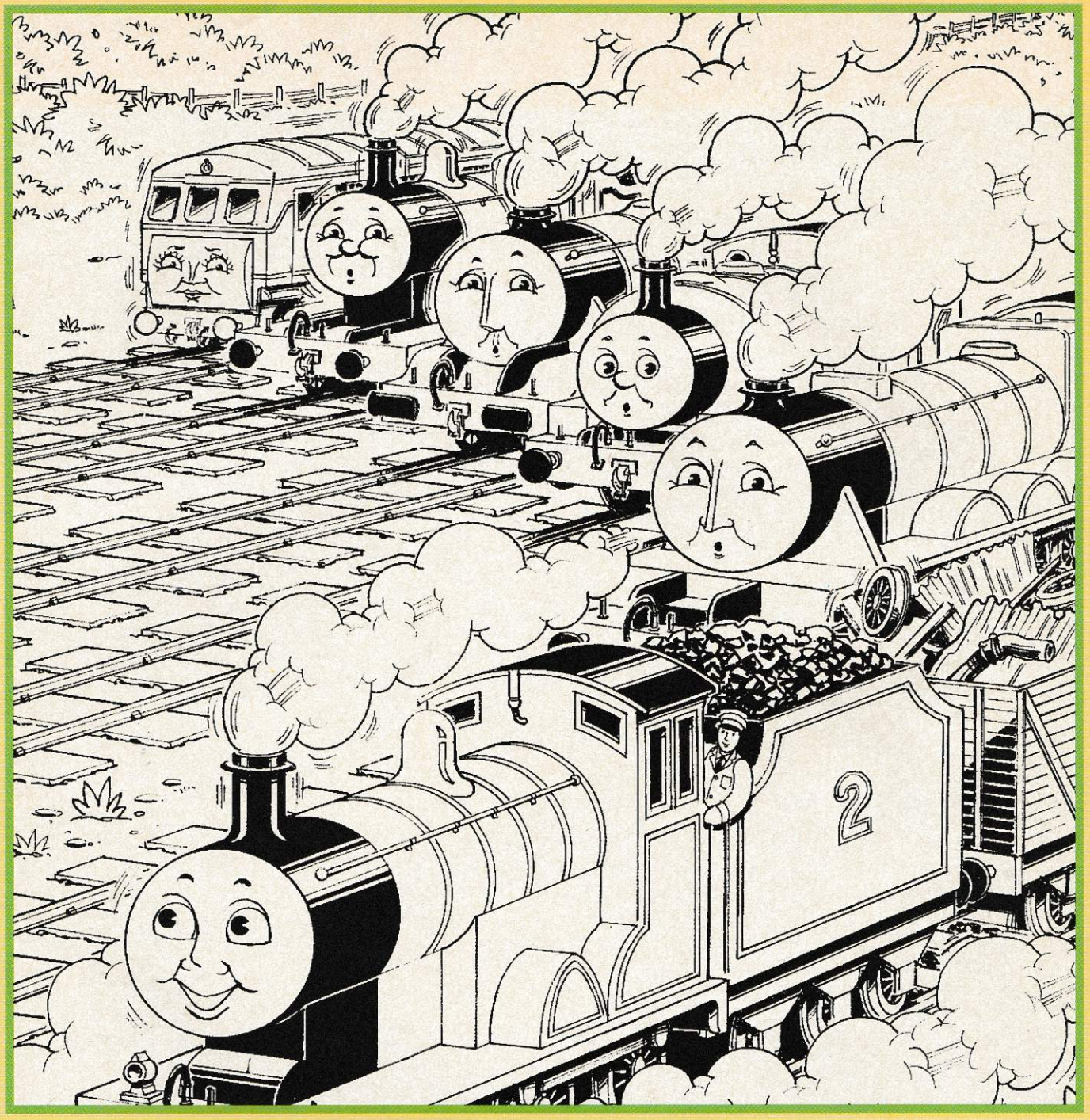
2 Meanwhile, outside, a dreadful storm blew up suddenly. Rain poured down and the river burst its banks! Thomas had to help carry sandbags to the scene. "Oh, dear!" said Thomas, as one of the helpers dropped sand all over him in the bustle.

3 Henry, who was pulling some heavy goods trucks, could barely get up Gordon's Hill in the terrible weather. "Horrid day! Nasty wind!" groaned Henry as the rain lashed down. "I've never been so puffed out!"





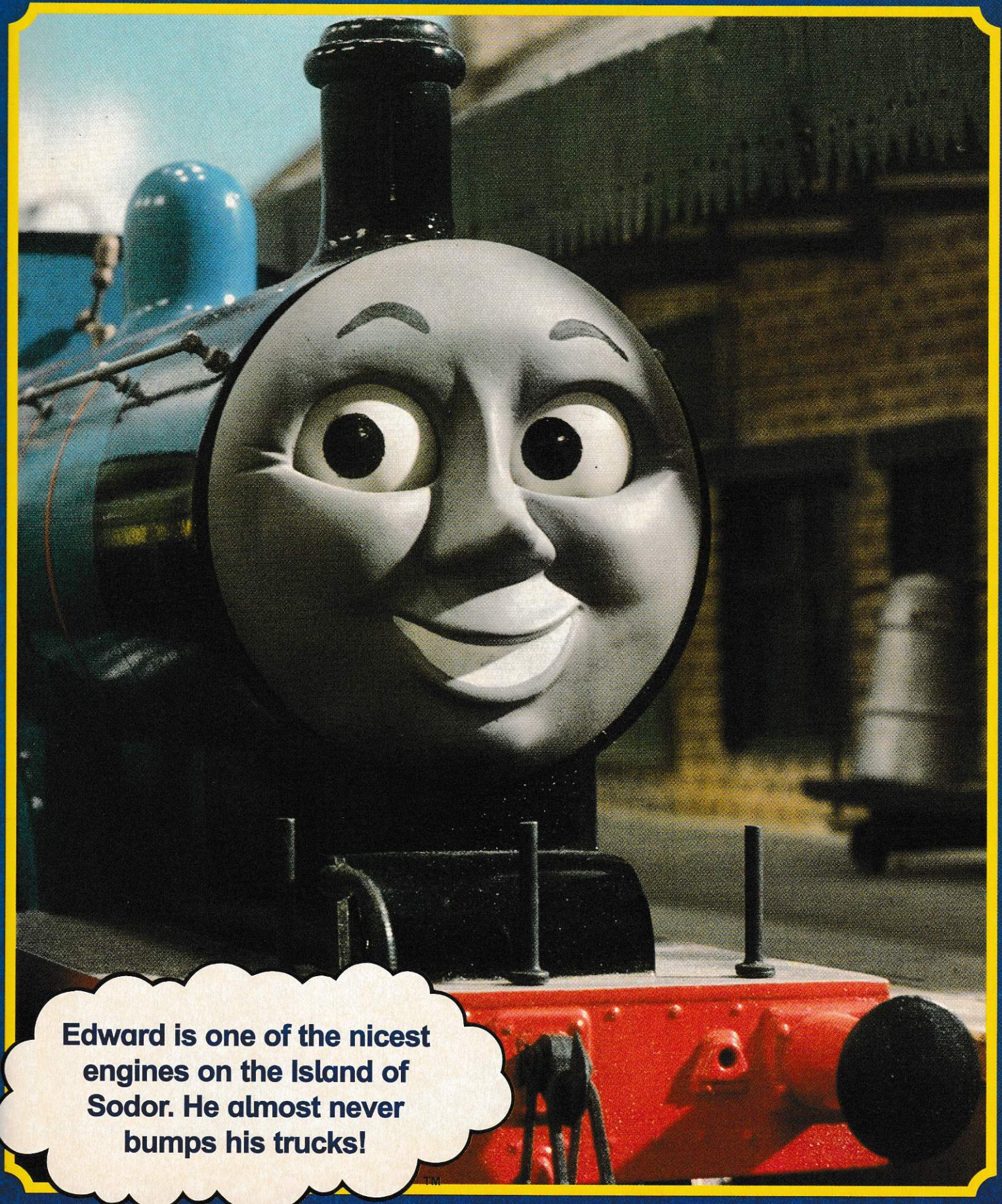
4 James was having a rotten time as well. His smart red paintwork was spattered with mud from the wet tracks. To make it worse, the trucks teased him for looking grubby. "Some engines have no pride in their appearance," they sniggered in a nasty way.



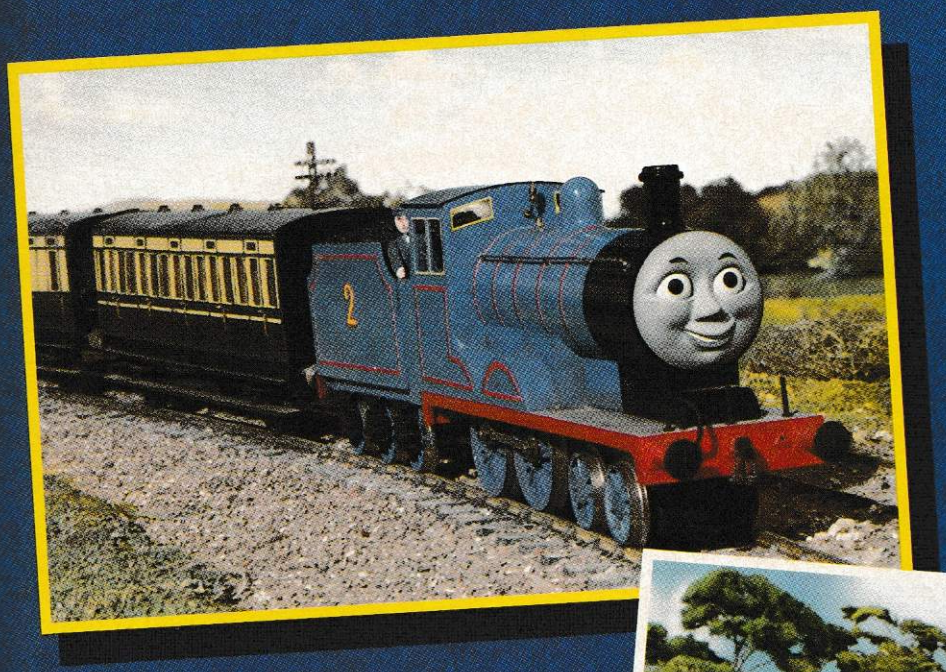
5 Later, when the storm had died down and the work was over, all the engines grumbled about their horrible day. Everyone was cold, wet and tired. They were very surprised when Edward finally came chuffing home, looking bright and cheery. "I've been safe and dry all day," he explained to their astonished faces. "I can't imagine why I was ever scared of that old tunnel. It's a nice, warm place to be - especially in a storm!" he chuckled.

The end

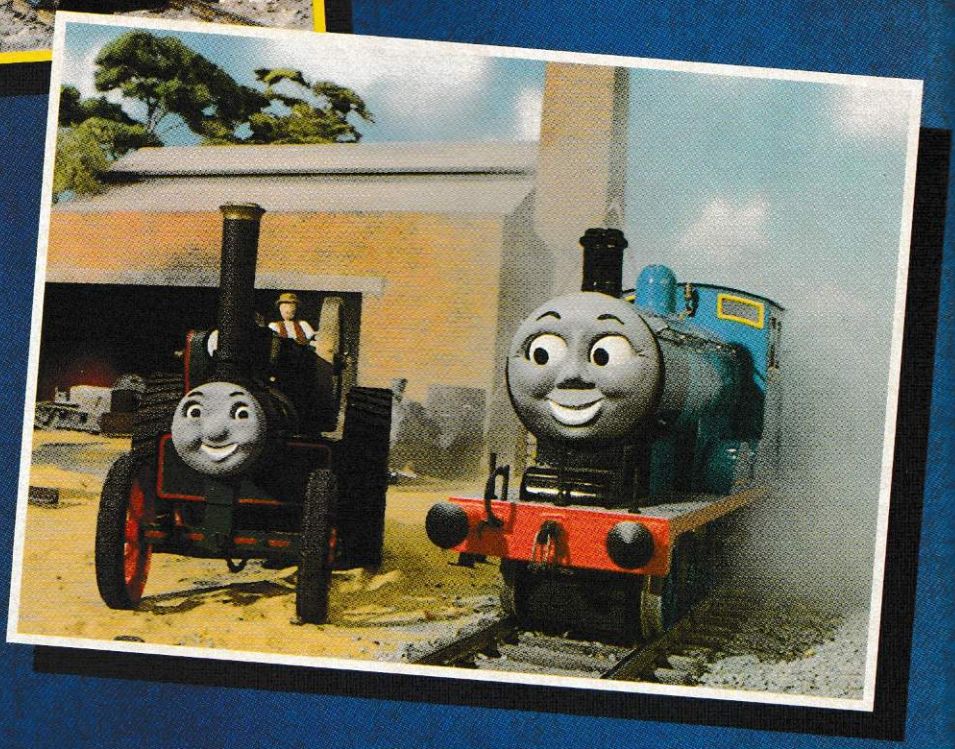
All about


Edward is one of the nicest engines on the Island of Sodor. He almost never bumps his trucks!

Edward!



Edward is in charge of the branch line that runs from Wellsworth to Brendam.



Edward helped to save Trevor the Traction Engine from being turned into scrap.

Win a model Edward!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Edward from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Edward model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ. Closing date for entries: April 8th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Edward!

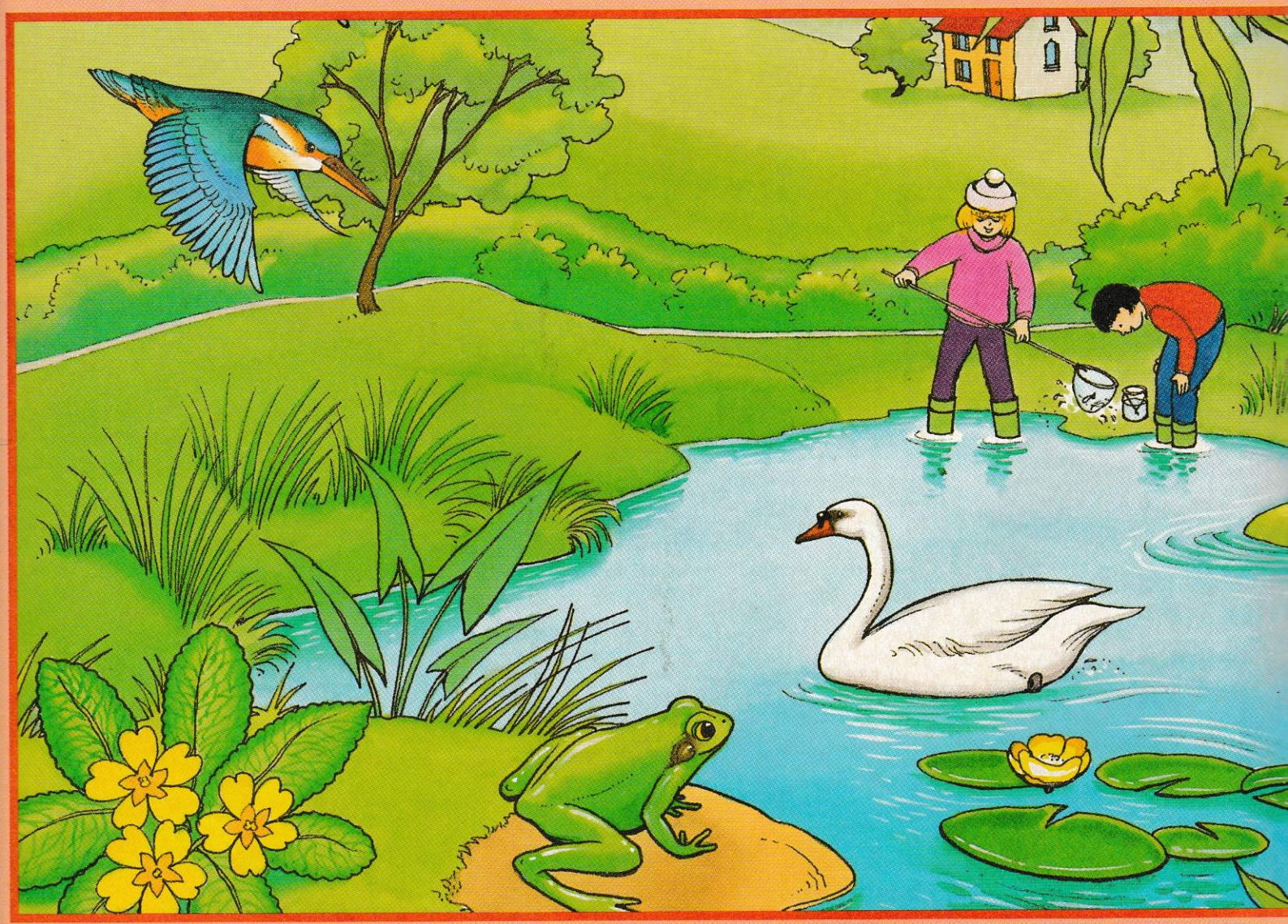
Gone fishing!

When he saw the Fat Controller walking towards him in the yard one morning, Diesel was worried he would be scolded, because he had been behaving badly all week. But the Fat Controller looked anxious.

"Bridget and Stephen have gone out with their fishing net, but nobody knows where," he told all the engines. "I'm worried that they have gone to the river. It's very deep after the Spring rains," he added. "Please look out for them and, if you see them, report back at once."

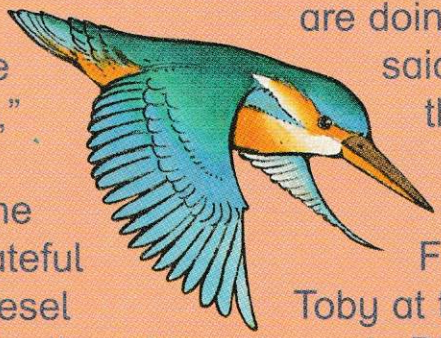
All morning, as they did their work, the engines searched for the children. Thomas looked for them by the bridge. Duck tried to spot them on his branch line by the sea. Toby hoped to see them at the quarry, but there was no sign of Bridget or Stephen.

But Diesel had an idea. He knew that there was a pond full of tadpoles near one of the smaller tracks. He told his driver, and sure enough, there were Stephen and Bridget, looking at the tadpoles. They waved and smiled. Diesel's driver called out that the Fat Controller was looking for them. The children were very sorry



to have caused such worry.

Diesel was on his way back to Main Station, and so Stephen and Bridget asked his driver to let their grandfather know they were safe and on their way home. When Diesel arrived at Main Station, his driver quickly delivered the important message.



Diesel smiled smugly at the other engines. "I found them," he hissed.

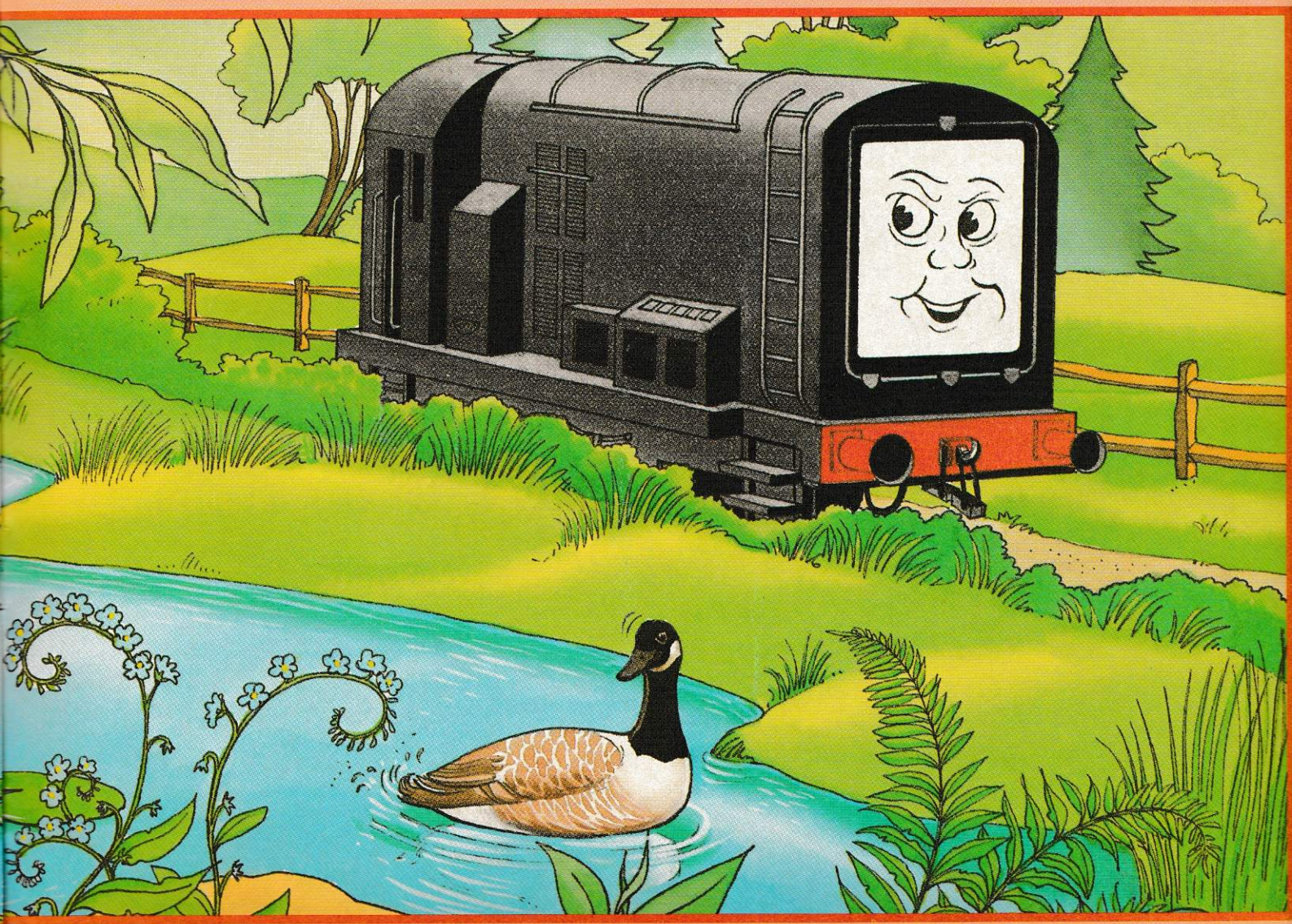
"Thank you, Diesel," said the Fat Controller. "I am very grateful that you were so helpful." Diesel gave an oily smirk. "Good," he thought. "Now I won't get into trouble for being such a naughty engine all week."

But then the Fat Controller went on. "It is a shame that you have been so troublesome lately. I will talk to you about that later," he said. Then he went to phone Lady Topham Hatt.

The children were safely home. The Fat Controller spoke to them very seriously. "It is important to make sure that grown-ups always know what you are doing and where you are going," he said. "Now we will say no more of the matter."

As for Diesel...he found out that laziness doesn't pay! The Fat Controller made him help Toby at the quarry for the rest of the week. Diesel felt very sorry for himself as he shunted trucks. But I don't think he deserves any sympathy... do you?

The End



THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Photo album
DUCK

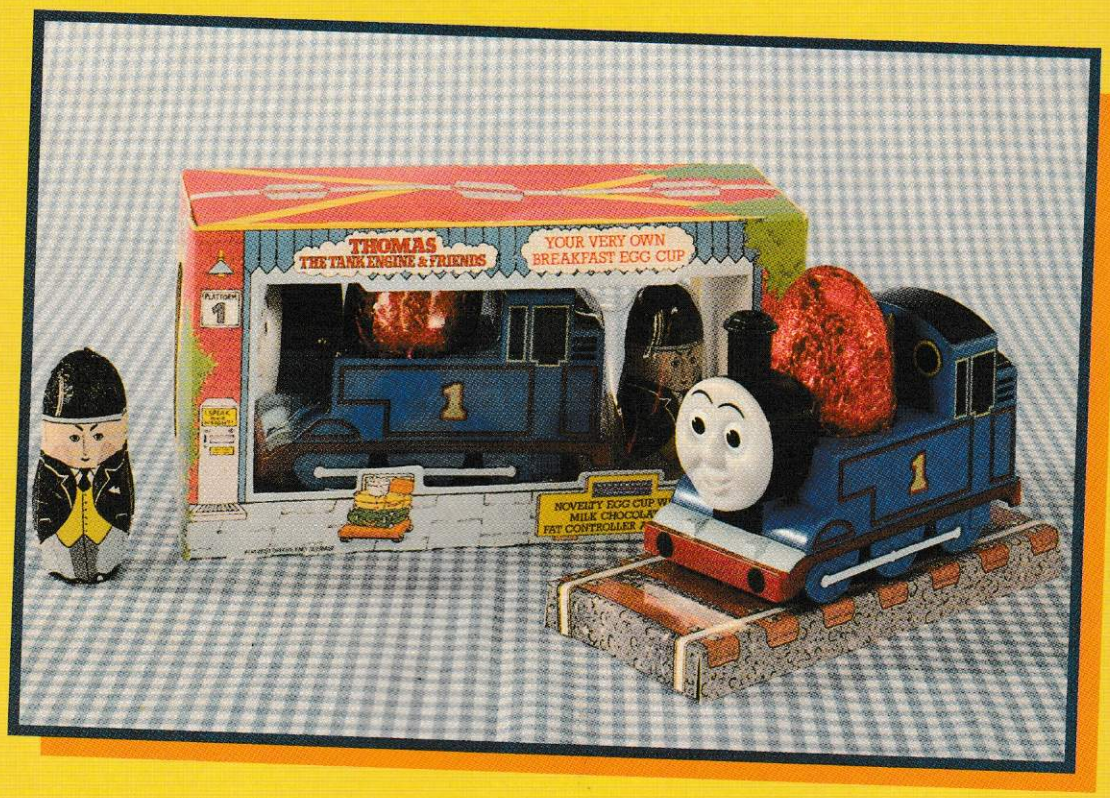
Dot to dot!

Join the dots to keep the rain off!

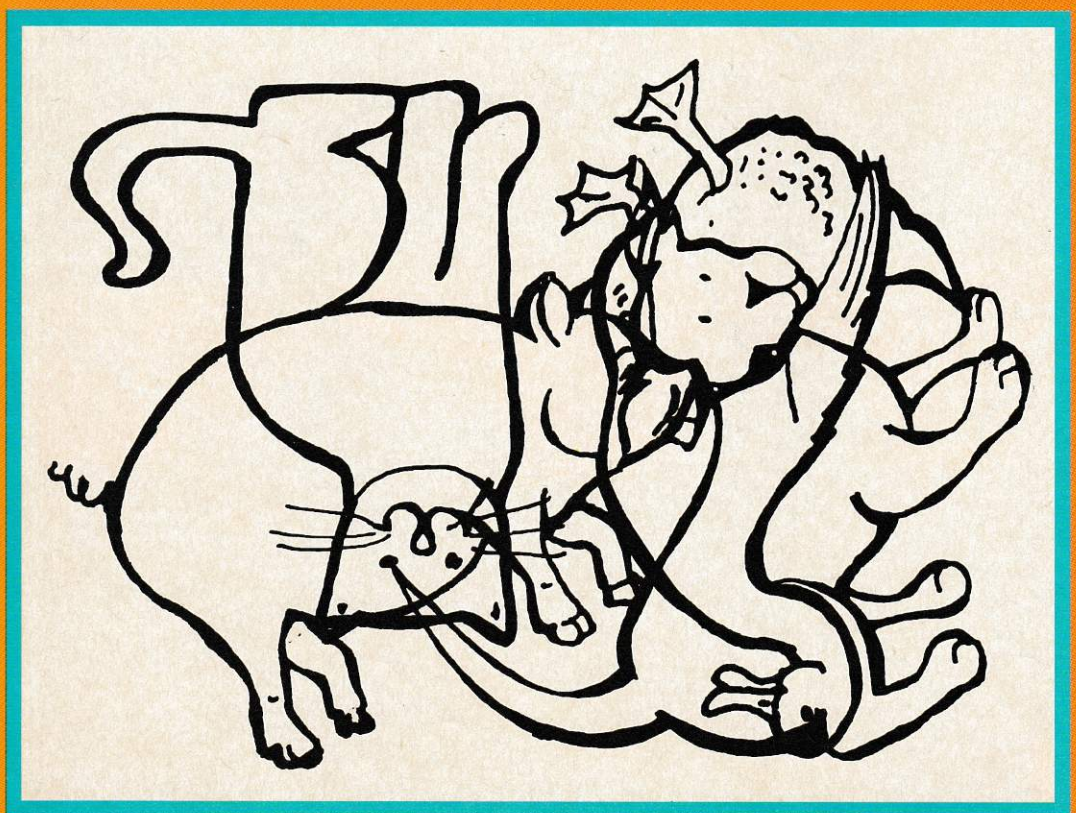
When you have finished colour this page!

Yummy! Thomas chocolate to be won!

We have 95 of these delicious Easter treats to give away! Each lucky winner will receive a Thomas the Tank Engine train egg cup, with a delicous milk chocolate egg and a chocolate Fat Controller.



These yummy prizes are supplied by Kinnerton Confectionery and cost £1.99 in the shops. For your chance to win, look at the jumbled-up picture below. Which four animals are hidden here? Send your answer, with your name and address, to:

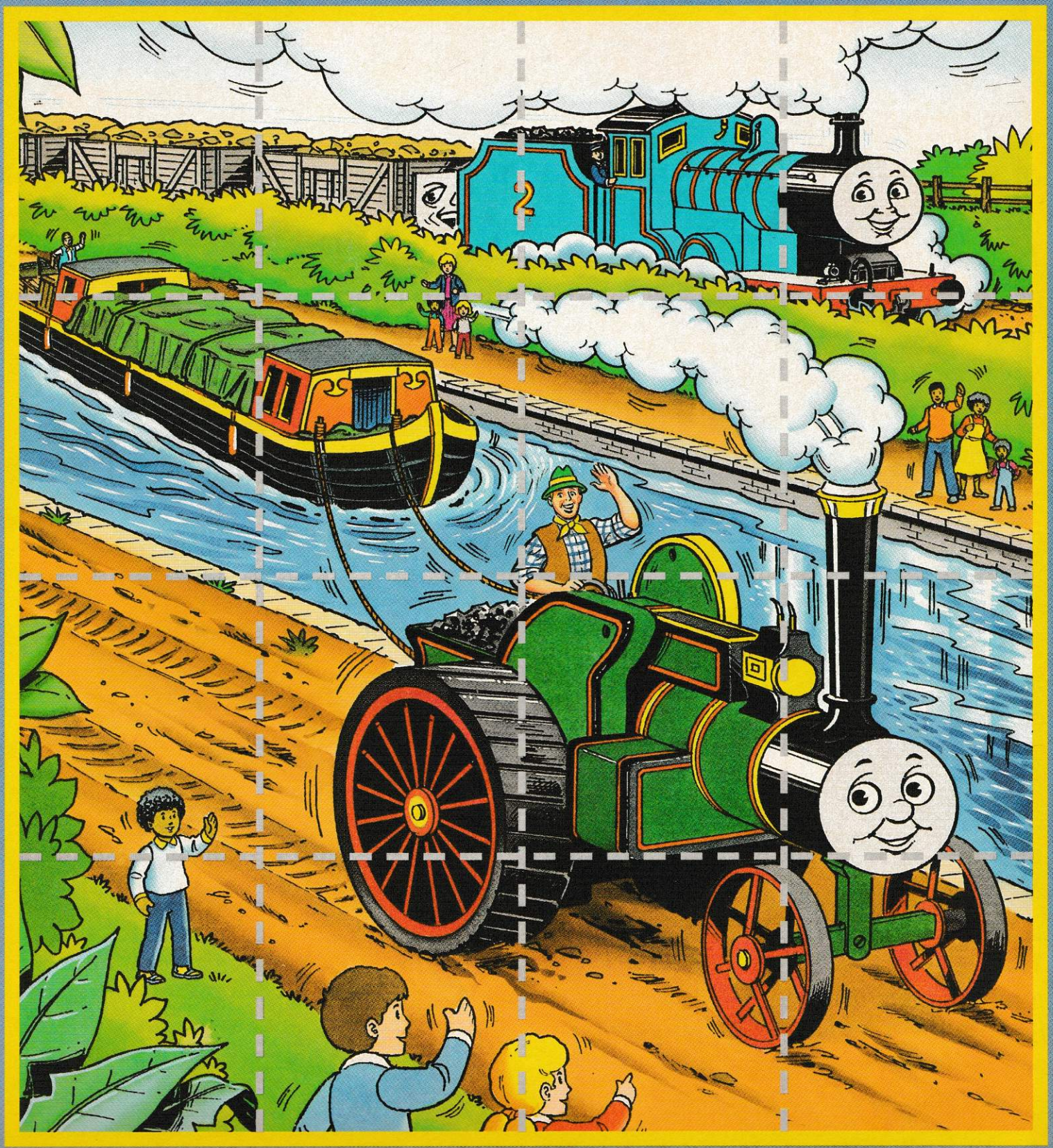


Thomas/Egg competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ. Entries should arrive before 8th April 1996. The first 95 correct entries drawn from our postbag after that date will win!

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd and Ertl(Europe) Ltd. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editors decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

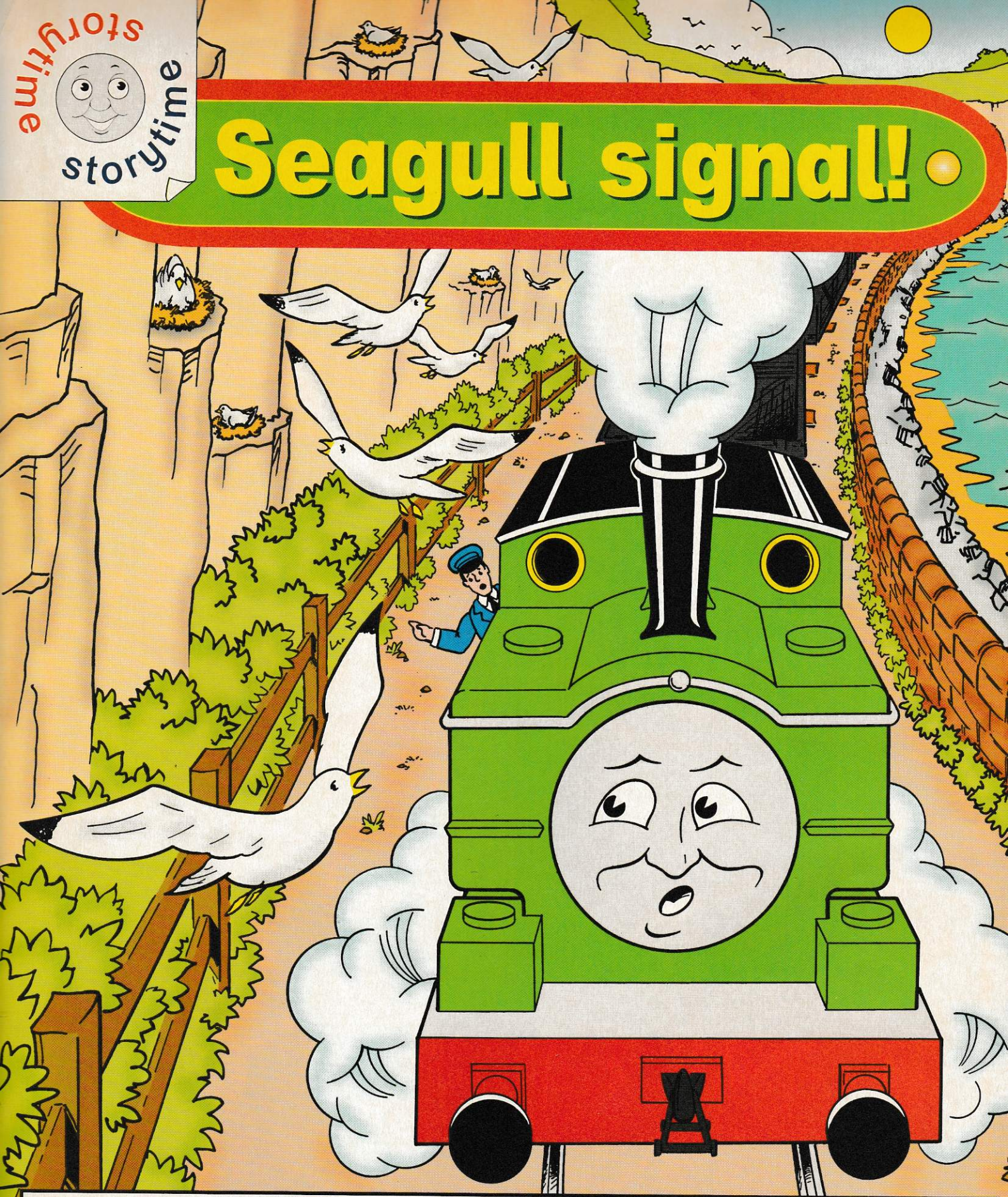
Jigsaw Jumble!

With help from a grown-up, stick this picture of Edward and Trevor onto thin card. Cut it up into squares and mix the pieces up! Can you put the jigsaw back together?



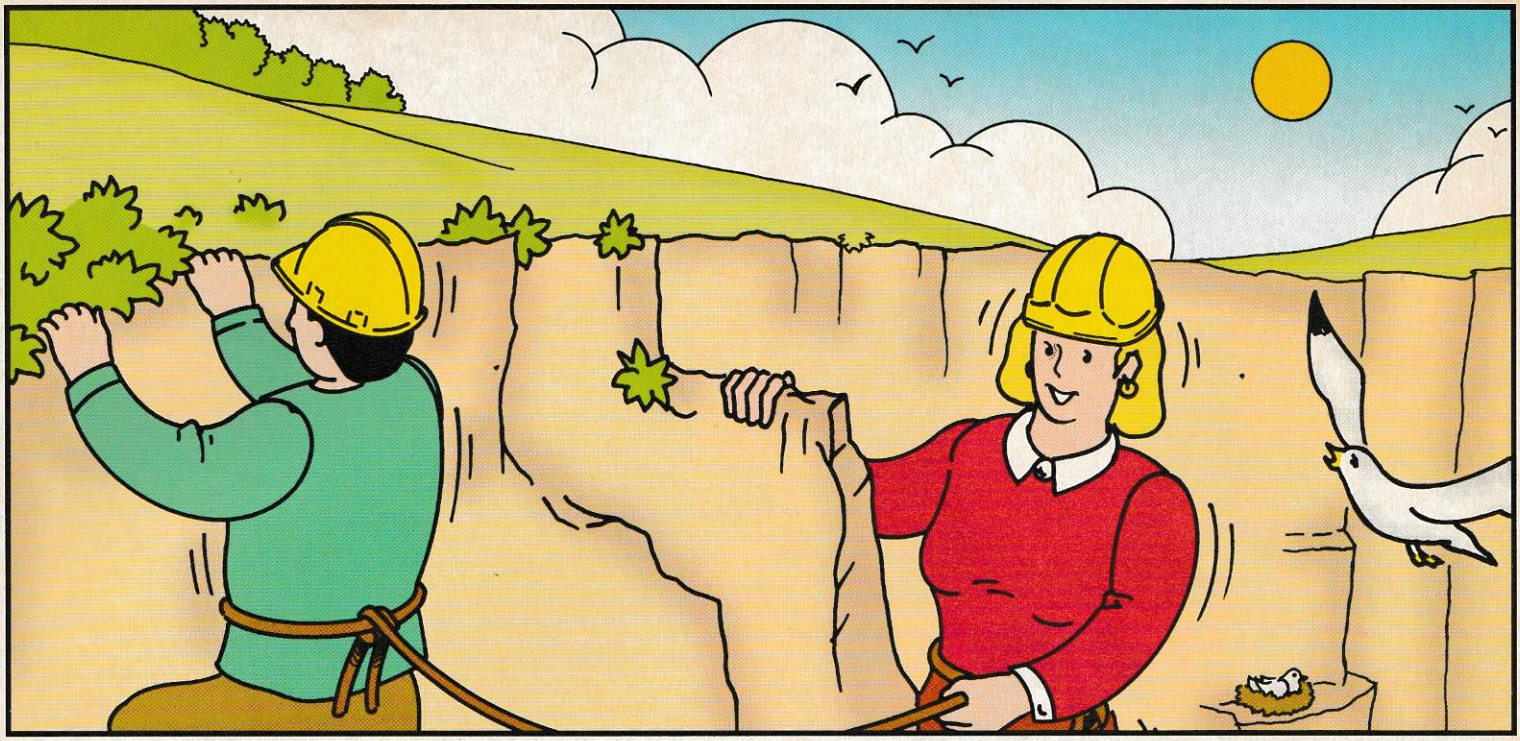
storytime

Seagull signal!



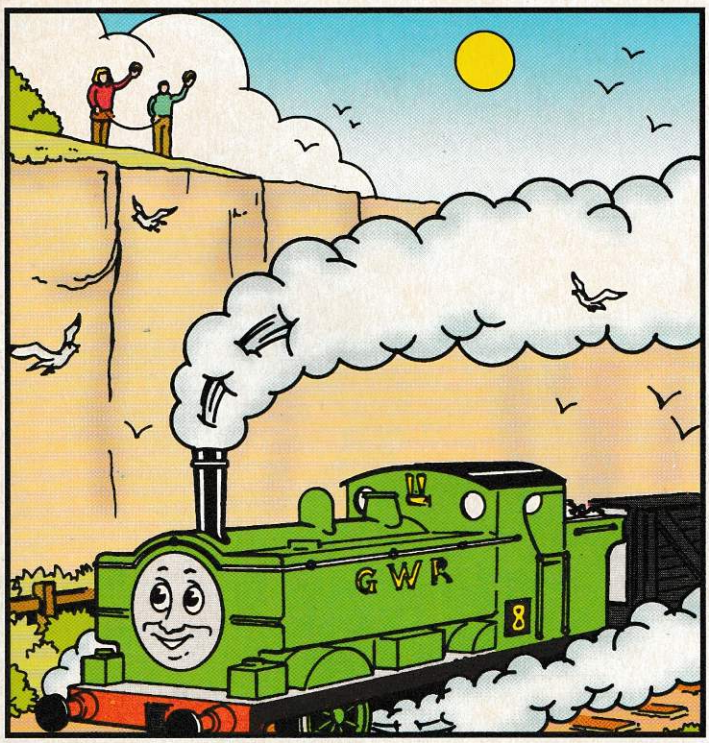
1. Duck's line is by the sea. It goes past tall cliffs where lots of seagulls build nests. "There are different kinds, like common gulls and herring gulls," Duck's driver explained.

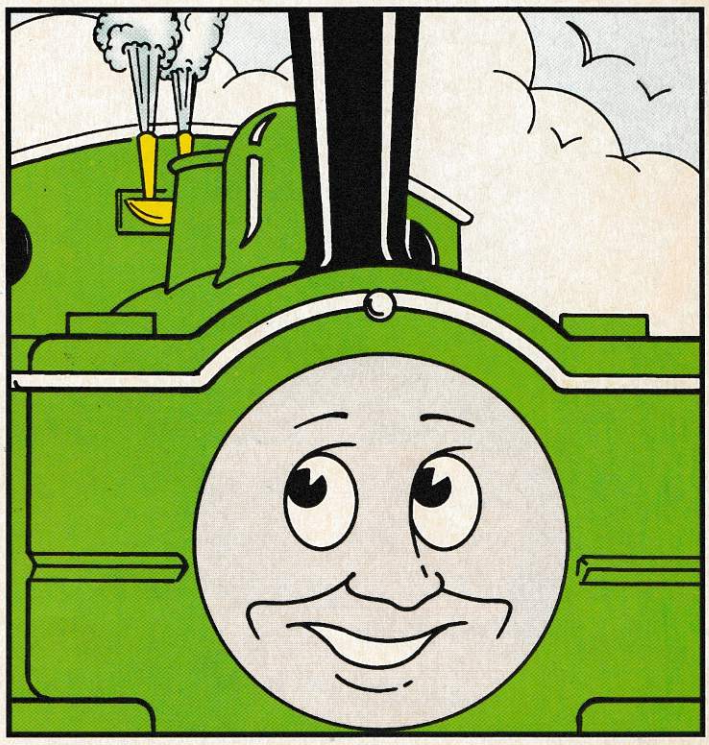
2. The gulls were used to Duck. They were not frightened by him puffing along. But one day as he came near the cliff, the gulls began to scream and swoop in the sky.



3. "What's wrong with them?" Duck called. Then he noticed a man and woman climbing on the cliff. They were roped together for safety as they carefully looked at the nests.

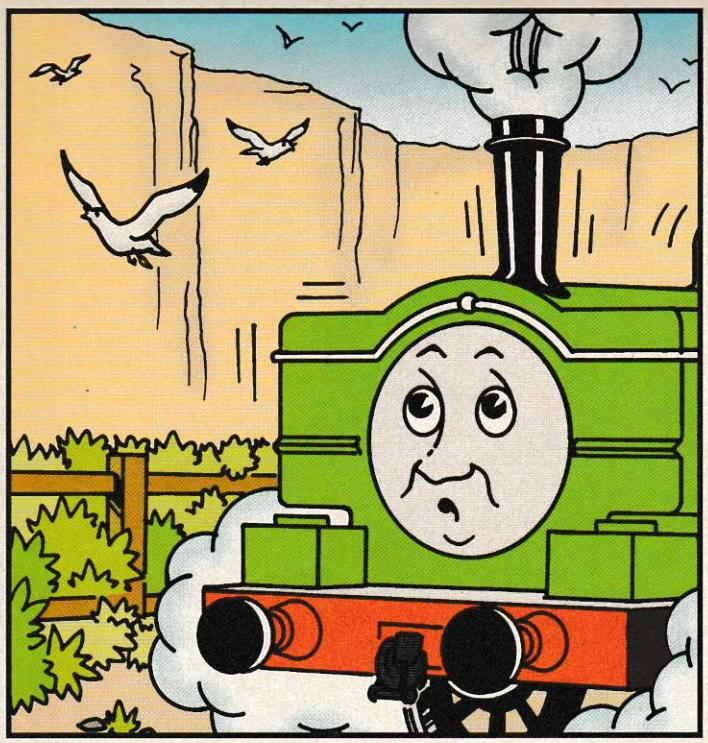
4. "Don't worry, Duck!" said his driver. "They're scientists who check on the birds and their young babies. The scientists count them and make sure they aren't ill."



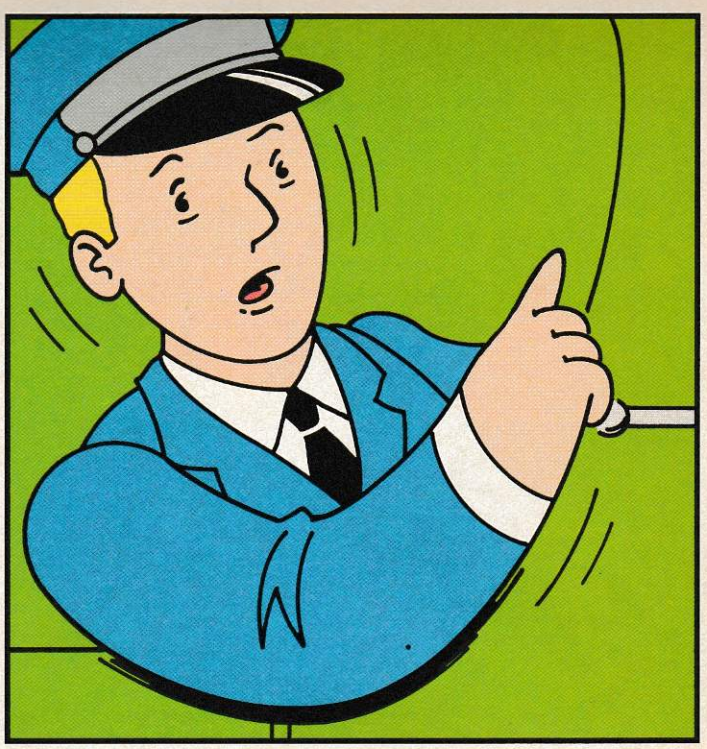


5. Duck was pleased to hear the birds were being looked after. At the top of the cliff, the two scientists took off their helmets and waved to Duck as he went past.

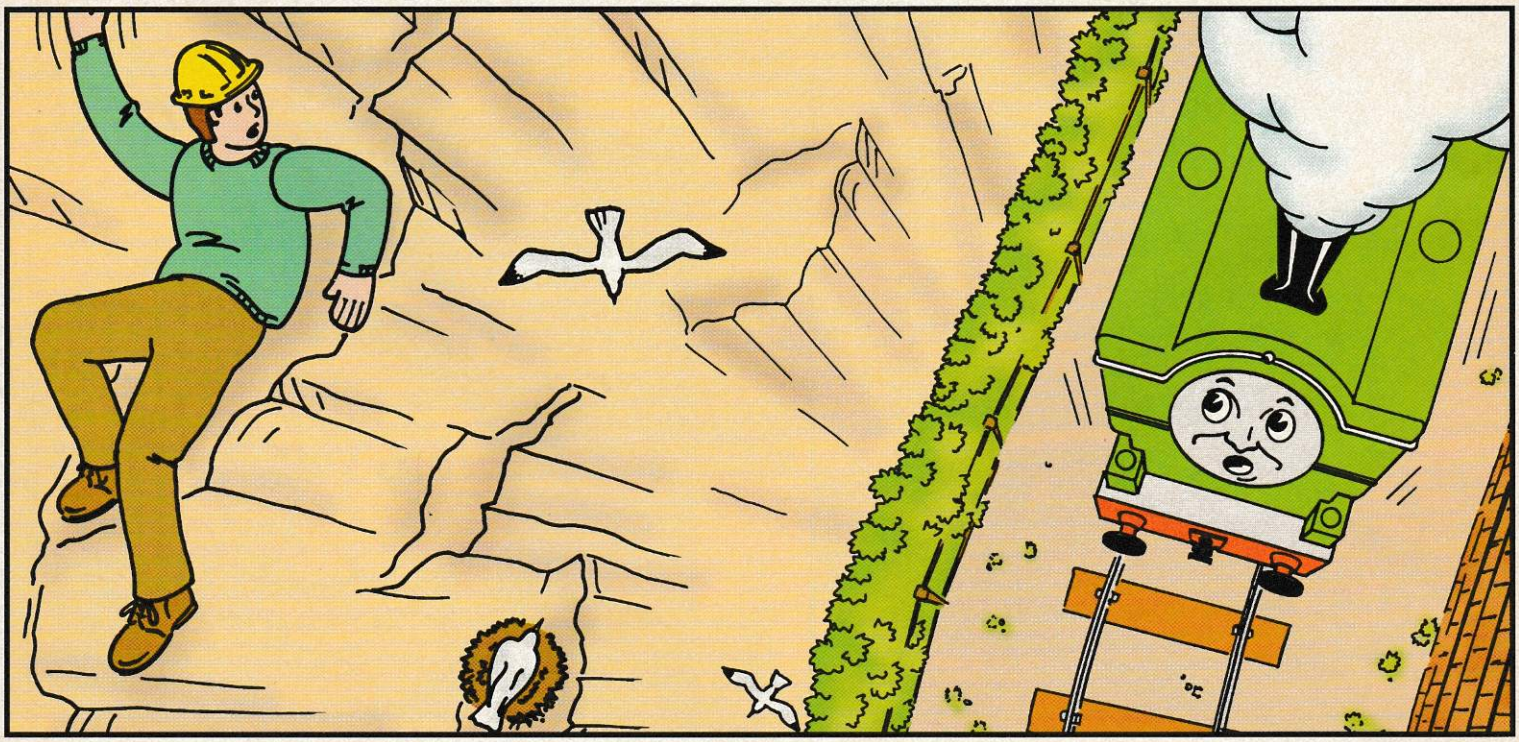
6. "Pheep! Hello!" he whistled at them. "I'm sure the seagulls will soon settle down again when the scientists have gone," thought Duck. Then he hurried on his way.



7. Sure enough, next morning, Duck saw the gulls were calmly nesting once more. But the following week, as Duck neared the cliffs, many of the birds were flying noisily about.

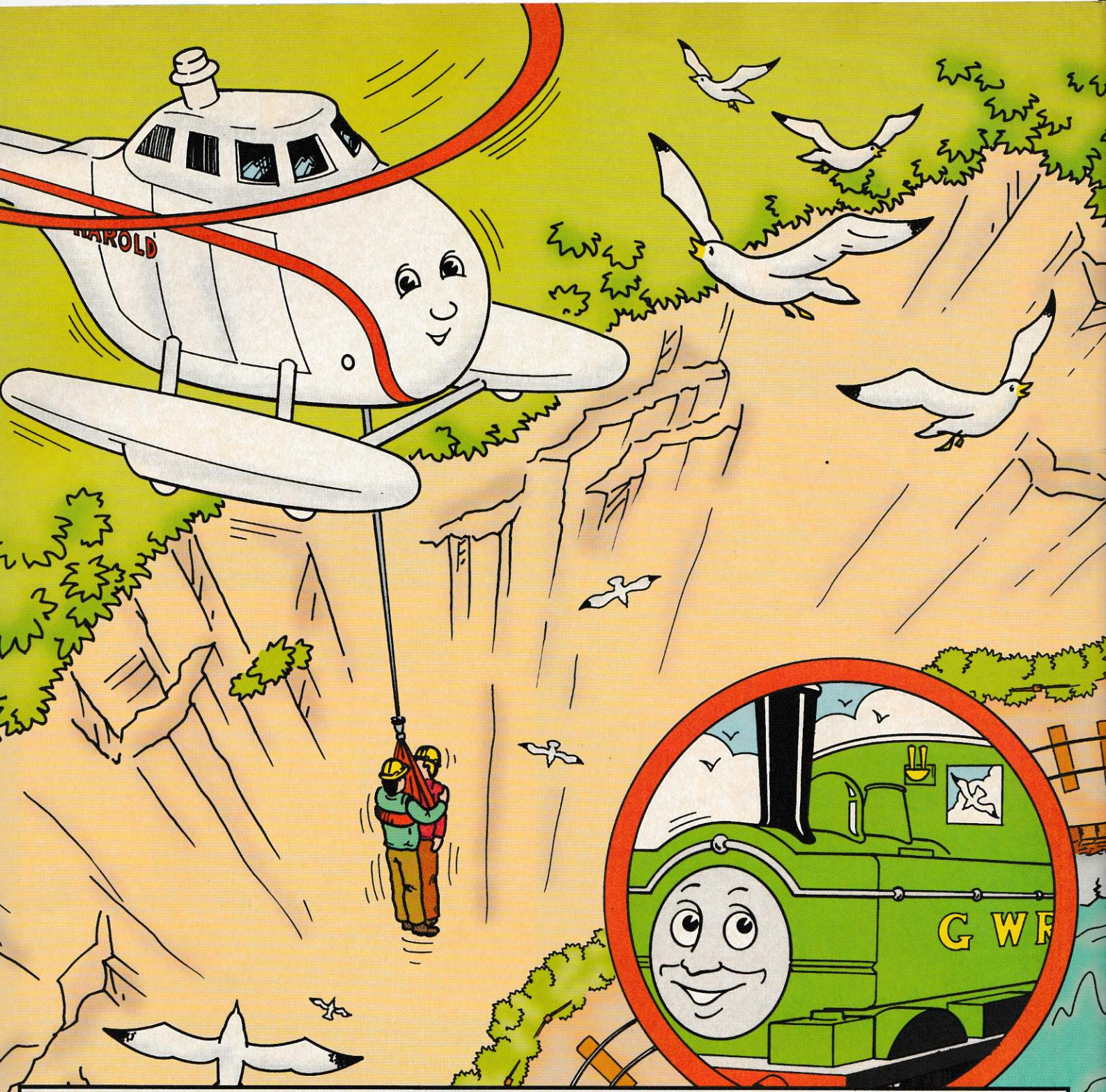


8. "Look!" Duck called to his driver. "The scientists must have come back." His driver leaned out of his cab, but he could not see anyone. "That's strange!" he said, puzzled.



9. "Something must be wrong, this time!" the driver added, worried. Duck slowed down to take a closer look. Then he spotted a man on a cliff ledge. He was waving urgently.

10. "It's one of the scientists!" cried Duck. "He must have fallen!" Duck whistled loudly so that the scientist would know he had been seen. "We'll get help!" said Duck.



11. He raced off to the nearest station. Duck's driver told the Stationmaster, who rang for Harold the Helicopter. Blades whirling, Harold soon arrived. As he hovered near the cliff, Harold lowered a specially trained rescuer on a rope to the ledge where the scientist waited. Soon both men were lifted safely back into Harold. The rescue was very exciting.

12. Later, Duck's driver explained that the scientist had been climbing on his own that day. He had slipped and got stuck. But, luckily, he was not badly hurt. For their help, the scientist gave Duck and Harold a big picture of a seagull. Harold let Duck keep it. The driver stuck it to his cab. Duck felt proud.
"I don't need it," joked Harold. `When I'm flying, I often **see gulls!**"

The m

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to the Fat Controller's Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5TZ

There's lots going on around Thomas in this colourful scene from Luke Stirling, aged 4!

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Can you tell me if BoCo has always lived on the Island of Sodor? He is my favourite engine on the railways.
Love from Otto Willberg, aged 3

BoCo came later on, to help out on Sodor. He was such a useful engine that I asked him to stay!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

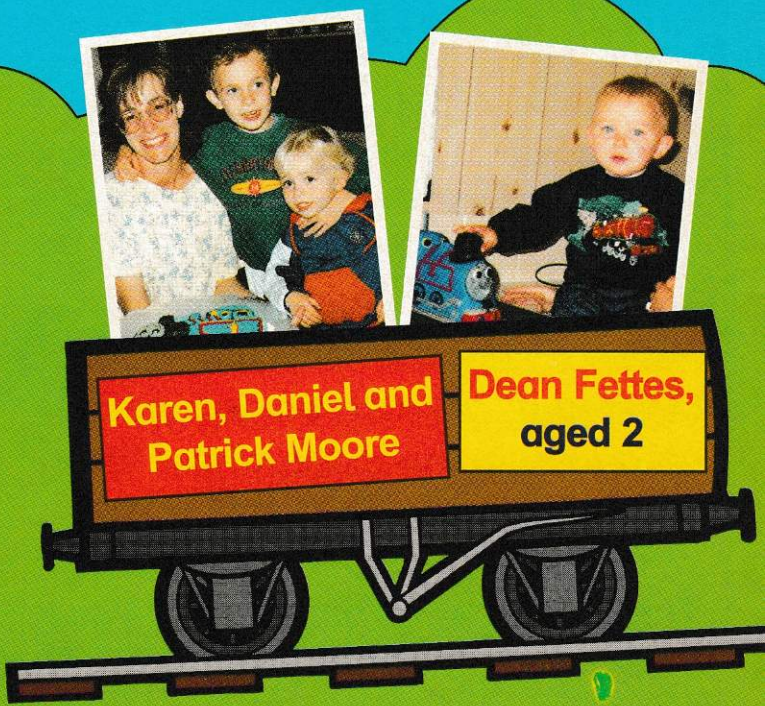
Prize Poem!

Thank you to Daniel Evans, aged 3, for this poem about Percy!

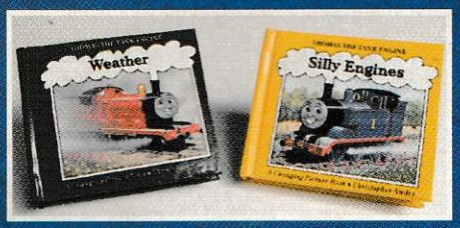
Percy is cheeky
With a little beep beep
Asking the trucks
To push him sea deep!

Happy Birthday

to Liam Denness, aged 2,
Callum Welfare, aged 2,
Kieran Welfare, aged 3,
James Wray, aged 3,
Peter Woodward-Court, aged 4

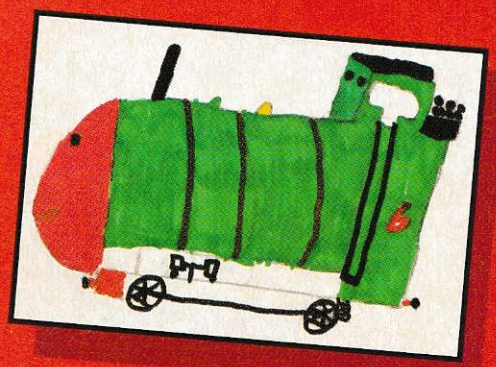


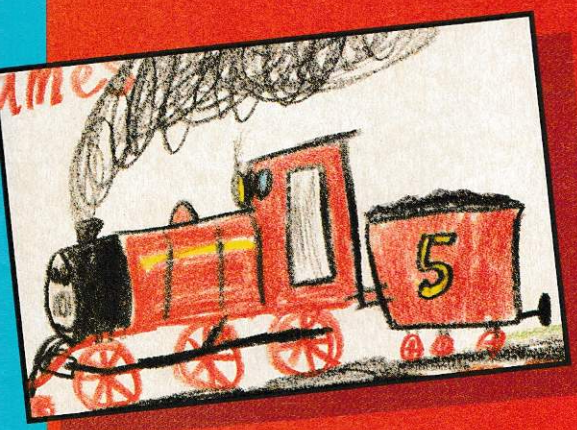
ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Zoe Riding, aged 7, drew this smiley picture of Percy. He must be laughing at the jokes you've sent in!





Peep! Peep! Here comes James, in a splendid picture from **Adam Pagan, aged 8.**

Percy's Jokes

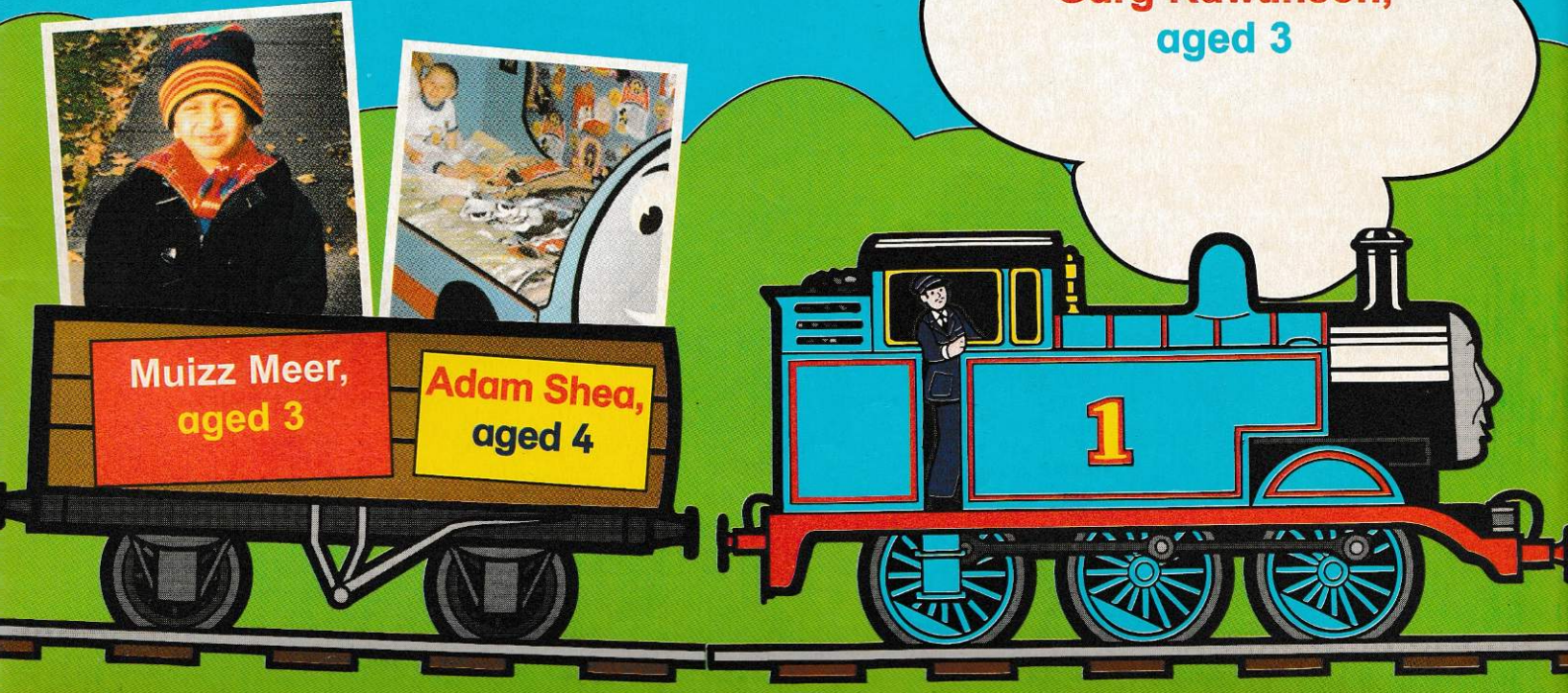
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

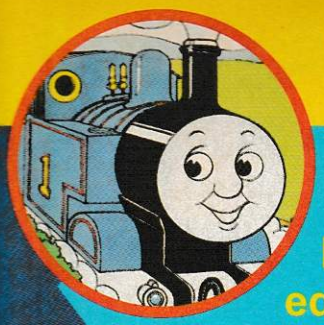
What did one tomato say to the other tomato? You run ahead and I'll *ketchup!*
Lesley Osbiston, aged 4

What do you get if you mix a cat with a lemon? A sour-puss!
Gary Rawlinson, aged 3

Muizz Meer, aged 3

Adam Shea, aged 4





Thomas collectable posters!

Remember the great free posters we gave away in earlier issues of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends? Lots of readers have written to find out where they can get hold of more copies. So if you missed out on the posters first time round, don't fret! By sending a cheque for £2.00, made payable to Adwell Systems Ltd., to the address below, you can obtain a set of the posters.

Adwell Systems Ltd
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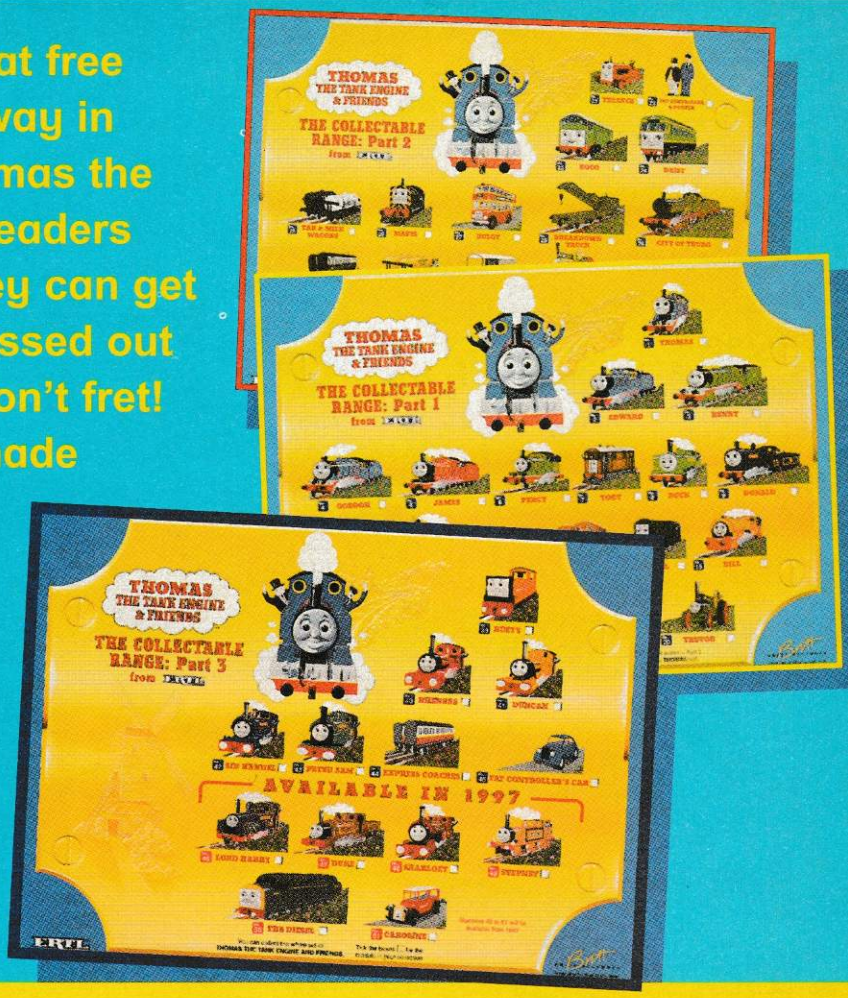
Yarcombe
Devon EX14 9BD



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..... Post code ..... Date of birth.....

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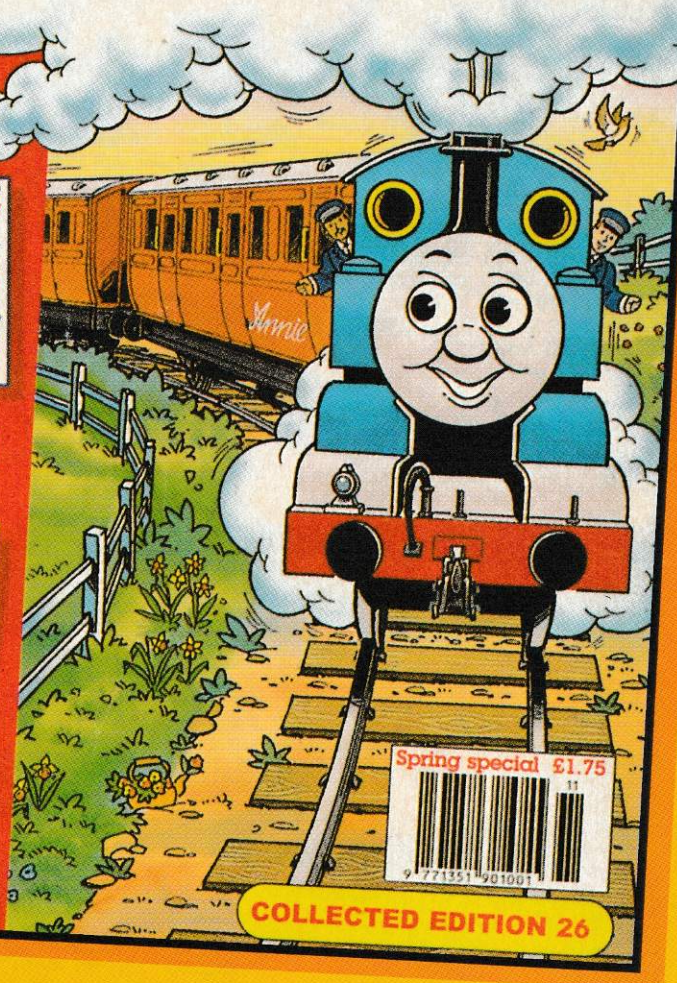

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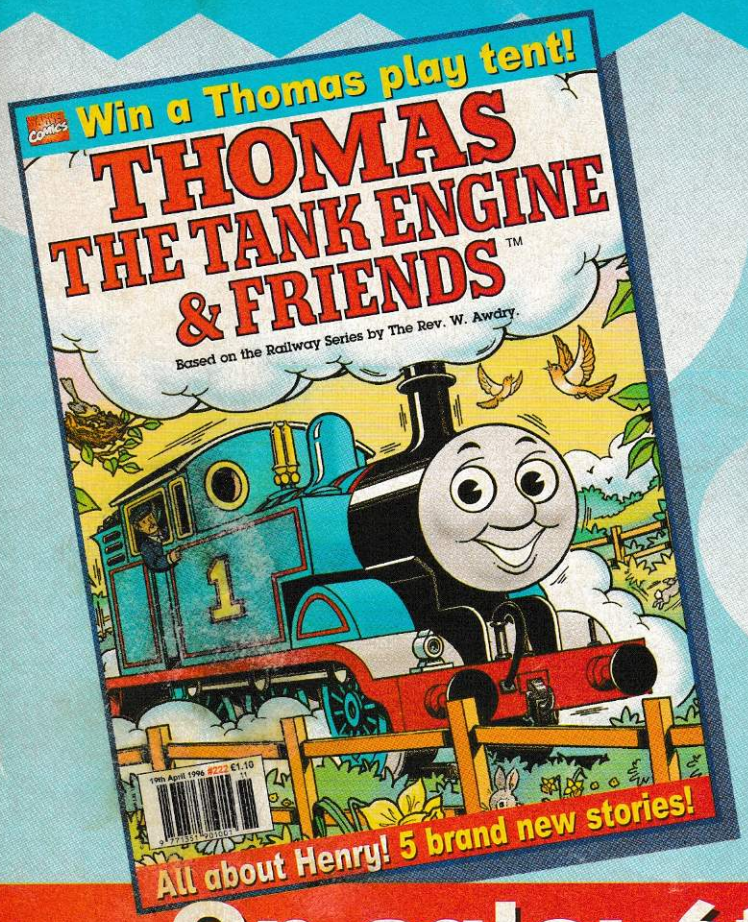
All aboard for...



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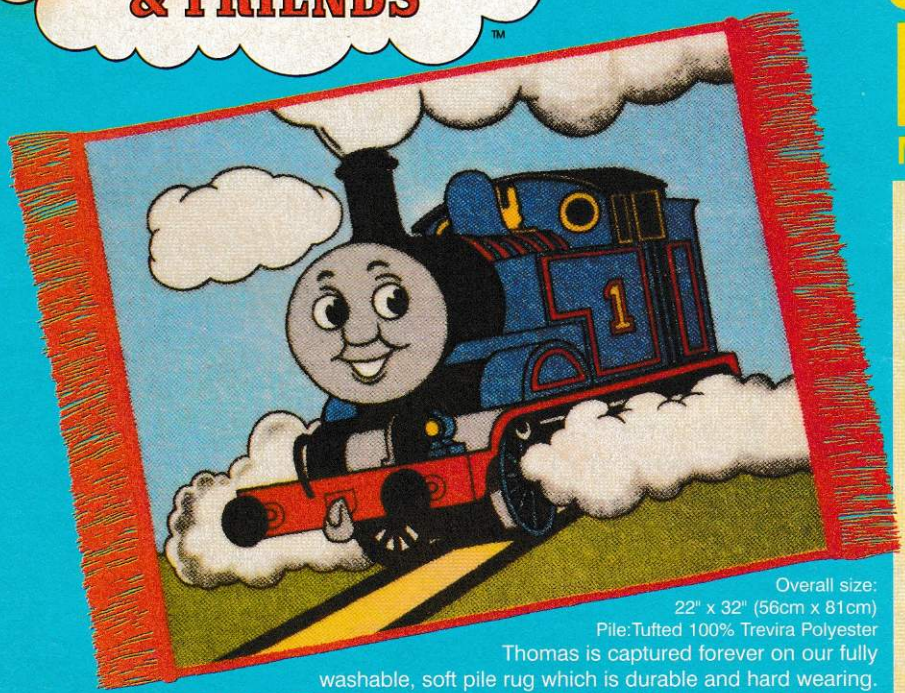

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